

OCT 10 1988

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Hodgenville Commercial Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Public Square and N. Lincoln Boulevard not for publication
city, town Hodgenville NA vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Larue code 123 zip code 42748

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>11</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan 10-4-88
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date
NA
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Adrian Byers Entered in the National Register 11/10/88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Commerce/Business

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Commerce/Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other: 20th Century Commercial
Vernacular

foundation — Brick/Concrete
walls — Brick/Concrete

roof — Asphalt

other — Copper

— Glass

— Wood panels

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Hodgenville Commercial Historic District is a small but well-defined grouping of early 20th century commercial buildings located in the downtown area of Hodgenville, Kentucky. The district is composed of one and two-story masonry buildings and all are used for commercial purposes. All of the buildings were constructed between 1914 and 1925 and reflect vernacular commercial styles of the period. The majority of buildings have not been significantly altered and retain their original character. Of the eleven buildings in the district, all are contributing and there are no intrusions or non-contributing properties.

The district encompasses the northwest corner of the public square and extends northward along N. Lincoln Boulevard. Four of the buildings in the district have their main facades on the public square, six have main facades facing N. Lincoln Boulevard and one building is built in an ell plan and has facades facing both the public square and N. Lincoln Boulevard. The public square and W. Main Street form the southern boundary of the district. On the west the district is bounded by a small, unnamed alley and Walters Street and Water Street forms the north boundary. The public square and N. Lincoln Boulevard form the district's eastern boundary.

The town of Hodgenville (1980 population: 2,459) is the county seat of Larue County and is located in the center of the county. Larue County has a small population of just under 11,000 residents with agriculture the county's primary economic base. Hodgenville is the largest community in the county and serves as its commercial and governmental center. One major highway, U.S. 31E, and several state routes converge at Hodgenville at the public square. The public square has traditionally been a major shopping area for the county and it continues to be a busy area of businesses and offices.

With the exception of the buildings in the Hodgenville Commercial District, few other historic structures remain extant on the public square. During the 19th century the square contained a variety of hotels, commercial buildings, public buildings and the ante-bellum Larue County Courthouse. The shops and stores on the square sold dry goods, groceries, clothing and other products. Adjacent to the square were tobacco warehouses, flour mills and a few small manufacturers such as wagon and harness makers.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance

1914 - ca. 1938
1914 - ca. 1925

Significant Dates

1914
1914-1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

A.S. Kellar
Unknown

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

The Hodgenville Commercial Historic District is locally significant under criterion A and C for its role in county commerce and as a notable grouping of early 20th century commercial architecture. The district is significant under criterion C as the largest and most intact collection of commercial architecture in Larue County. All of the buildings were constructed between 1914 and ca. 1920 and share similar detailing in their storefronts and upper facade decoration. The district is unusually intact with all eleven buildings contributing to the character of the district. The district is also significant under criterion A for its role in the commercial history of the county. These buildings contained well known clothing stores, dry goods shops, a bank and other businesses during the early 20th century. Hodgenville was the primary center for commerce in this period with most of the town's important businesses centered on the public square. The district has been well preserved and retains its early 20th century character.

The town of Hodgenville, Kentucky is the seat of Larue County which is located in the west-central section of the state. Robert Hodgen settled here in 1788 and built a large grist mill on the North Fork of the Nolin River. Gradually a small settlement grew around the mill and a road was built connecting Hodgen's mill with Elizabethtown. This area was part of Hardin County in these years and the town was established in 1818 by the Hardin County Court. The town was laid out in a grid pattern with a central public square and radiating streets. By the 1820s, the town contained two churches, a few stores and some thirty homes.

During the first decades of the 19th century Hodgenville slowly developed into an important crossroads settlement of eastern Hardin County. A post office was

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Collins, Lewis. History of Kentucky. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Historical Society, reprinted 1966.

Elliot, Bessie Miller. "History of Larue County, Kentucky". Hodgenville, Kentucky: Private Printing, n.d. Manuscript on file at Larue County Public Library.

Larue County Herald News. Bicentennial Edition, August 29, 1974, Hodgenville, Kentucky.

Larue County Herald News. April 30, 1914.

Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Hodgenville, Kentucky. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1916.

See continuation sheet NA

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

SHPO: Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 1.3 acres

UTM References

A

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

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason
organization Thomason and Associates date 6/25/88
street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-383-0227
city or town Nashville state Tennessee zip code 37212

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Hodgenville Commercial Historic District

Owner List

Building # 1 - 100 Lincoln Blvd. : James Whitlow, 45 Lincoln Square,
Hodgenville, KY 42748

Building # 2 - 104-106 N. Lincoln Blvd.: Kenneth Doom, Rte# 2, Hodgenville,
KY 42748

Building # 3 - 108 N. Lincoln Blvd.: T.M. Hazle, c/o 108 N. Lincoln Blvd.,
Hodgenville, KY 42748

Building # 4 - 110 N. Lincoln Blvd.: T.M. Hazle, c/o 108 N. Lincoln Blvd.,
Hodgenville, KY 42748

Building # 5 - 112 N. Lincoln Blvd.: Damon and Janet Talley, P.O. Box
150, Hodgenville, KY 42748

114 N. Lincoln Blvd.: Erbie Garrett, 37 Public Square,
Hodgenville, KY 42748

Building # 6 - 118 N. Lincoln Blvd.: Erbie Garrett, 37 Public Square,
Hodgenville, KY 42748

Building # 7 - 48 Public Square: Wilma Atherton, 48 Public Square, Hodgenville,
KY 42748

Building # 8 - 52-56 Public Square: James Larue, 52-56 Public Square,
Hodgenville, KY 42748

Building # 9 - 58 Public Square: Adrian Atherton, 58 Public Square, Hodgenville,
KY 42748

Building # 10 - 64-66 Public Square: Stephen Marcum, 64-66 Public Square,
Hodgenville, KY 42748

Building # 11 - 72 Public Square: Francis E. Larue, 308 Greensburg Street,
Hodgenville, KY 42748

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Prior to 1914, the northwest corner of the public square and adjacent buildings contained some of Hodgenville's best known businesses including two banks, druggists, clothing stores and hardware stores. On April 28, 1914 a devastating fire swept this side of the square and destroyed all of the frame and brick buildings facing the public square and N. Lincoln Boulevard. The fire forced some businesses to close and a number of the lots were sold in the months that followed. Other businesses decided to rebuild and by the end of the year several new brick commercial buildings were erected. Rebuilding continued for the next several years with most of the present buildings completed by 1925.

These one and two-story commercial buildings are vernacular designs typical of the period. All are rectangular plan structures with decorative storefronts and upper story details on the main facade. Most storefronts were designed with frame, brick or marble bulkheads, display windows of copper and glass and simple single light doors of frame and glass. Over the display windows and doors decorative transoms were often added of opaque glass or of Luxfer prism glass. Behind the windows were platforms and cases for the display of goods. A few of the buildings were designed with recessed entrances featuring coffered ceilings and glazed tile floor surfaces.

Upper facade decoration on the buildings is generally consistent with most decorative details confined to textured and glazed brick patterns above the storefront or second story windows. This brickwork is executed by several courses of brick or corbelling and through the use of glazed or textured brick to create contrasting patterns. Concrete panels are often also used to provide upper facades with greater variety of materials. Rooflines were kept simple with circular or stepped parapets of brick and concrete found on each building. There is no evidence that sheet metal cornices ever adorned any of the buildings. Windows on all of the two-story buildings are one-over-one rectangular sash with minimal decorative features.

The interiors of these commercial buildings were originally composed of large open floor areas on each floor. Partition walls were few and generally found at the rear of the building. Decorative features were usually limited to pressed metal ceilings in most buildings. Exceptions are the G.O. Kirkpatrick Buildings which were built as clothing stores and have open mezzanine levels on the second story. These mezzanine levels have railings with turned balusters and elaborate counters and display cases. On the second story of the other buildings the space was used for storage or offices with separate entrances leading to the upper floor. There is no indication that any of the upper stories of the buildings in the district were used as residences.

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For the next fifty years the buildings on the northwest side of the public square were vital businesses in the commercial history of Hodgenville. With the development of competing shopping centers on the edge of town, several of the downtown property owners decided to "modernize" their buildings as well. Fortunately most alterations completed in the 1960s and 1970s were restricted to the storefront level and no building was covered with metal fronts or otherwise altered on the upper facade. Of the eleven buildings in the district, seven have most of their original storefronts intact. The only major addition to the district in recent years has been the construction of shed roof frame canopys over many of the building's storefronts.

In addition to changes to these buildings, the character of the public square was also greatly altered. All historic structures on the southwest corner of the square were razed for modern buildings and the Lynn Hotel on North Lincoln Boulevard was removed for a modern bank building. In 1966, the ante-bellum courthouse was torn down and a new courthouse constructed several blocks away from the square. Other older buildings on the streets surrounding the square were also removed during this period.

The Hodgenville Commercial District contains the most significant concentration of historic commercial architecture in Larue County. The buildings are consistent in design and materials and most buildings retain their original storefronts. Alterations are relatively few and all upper facades display their original detailing. All properties in the district are contributive and there are no intrusions.

Individual Property Descriptions

1. 100 N. Lincoln Boulevard: Two-story brick commercial building constructed in a rectangular plan in 1914. On the main (east) facade is a ca. 1970 storefront with an added glass and frame bay window and frame door. On the upper facade are three original frame sash windows with added storm windows. Dividing the windows are Doric motif brick pilasters. At the roofline are rectangular brick panels and a circular stepped parapet. At the corners are corbelled brick caps. The south facade has also been altered at the storefront level with ca. 1970 glass and frame doors and windows added. On the upper story are original one-over-one frame sash windows and at the roofline is a stepped parapet. The interior has been altered with new materials and partitions. (C)

2. 104-106 N. Lincoln Boulevard: Two-story brick commercial building constructed in a rectangular plan in 1915. On the main (east) facade is a storefront altered ca. 1970 with new glass and frame display windows and doors. A transom above the storefront has been enclosed with frame panels.

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Flanking the storefront are brick pilasters with Doric motif capitals. On the north bay is an original single light glass and frame door and Luxfer glass transom which opens onto a staircase connecting with the second story. On the upper facade are original one-over-one sash windows which rest on a continuous concrete sill. Dividing the windows are Doric motif brick pilasters. Above the windows is a corbelled brick cornice and at the roofline is a stepped parapet with floral concrete decoration. Protruding from the upper facade is a modern neon sign. The interior has been altered with new ceiling, wall and floor materials. (C)

3. 108 N. Lincoln Boulevard: One-story brick commercial building constructed in a rectangular plan in 1915. On the main (east) facade is an original storefront with a recessed central entrance, a single light glass and frame door and large single light sidelights. The floor of the recessed entry has a glazed tile surface with greek fret banding and the ceiling displays rectangular coffering. The storefront has original brick bulkheads, copper and glass display windows and a Luxfer glass transom. Over the storefront is a ca. 1960 metal awning. On the upper facade is elaborate brick and concrete banding in rectangular and floral designs. Just below the roofline is a concrete cornice with large modillion blocks and above the cornice are diamond and rectangular shaped concrete panels. At the roofline is a stepped parapet with concrete coping. The interior has not been greatly altered and retains an original pressed metal ceiling. (C)

4. 110 N. Lincoln Boulevard: One-story brick commercial building constructed in a rectangular plan ca. 1918. On the main (east) facade is an original storefront with marble bulkheads, copper and glass display windows and a recessed central entrance with a glazed tile floor. The main entrance is an original single light glass and frame door and in the recessed entry is a coffered ceiling. Over the storefront the original transom has been enclosed with frame panels and a ca. 1960 metal awning encloses the storefront. The upper facade displays rectangular brick panels of glazed brick and at the roofline is a stepped parapet. The interior has not been greatly altered and retains its original pressed metal ceiling. (C)

5. 112-114 N. Lincoln Boulevard: One-story brick commercial building constructed in a rectangular plan ca. 1918. On the main (east) facade are two separate storefronts. The south storefront is original with a recessed central entrance and a glass and frame single light door. The floor of this recessed entry has a glazed tile surface with greek fret banding and "J.R. MARCUM" inscribed in tile. The storefront retains original marble bulkheads and copper and glass display windows. The transom over the storefront has been enclosed with metal panels. The north storefront is also original with glass and frame double doors with large single lights and frame lower panels. The storefront

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retains original frame bulkheads with rectangular panels, display windows and above the storefront is an eight light transom. Across both storefronts is a ca. 1970 shed roof frame canopy. The upper facade has rectangular brick panels, a corbelled brick cornice and concrete coping at the roofline. The interior has been somewhat remodeled with added ceiling and floor materials. (C)

6. 118 N. Lincoln Boulevard: Two-story brick commercial building constructed in a rectangular plan in 1914. On the main (east) facade is an original storefront with cast iron pilasters, frame bulkheads and frame and glass display windows. The central bay is recessed and contains a ca. 1970 glass and frame door. In the south bay of the storefront is a ca. 1970 glass and frame door which opens onto a staircase connecting with the second story. A transom over the storefront has been enclosed with wood panels. Over the storefront is a ca. 1970 shed roof canopy. On the upper facade are original one-over-one paired frame sash windows. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice and stepped parapet. The interior has been altered in recent years with added ceiling, wall and floor materials. (C)

7. 48 Public Square: Two-story brick commercial building constructed in 1914 in an ell plan with facades facing both the public square and N. Lincoln Boulevard. The storefront facing the public square is original with frame and glass double doors and glass and frame display windows. Over the doors and display windows is a multi-light transom with opaque lights. In the west bay of the storefront is a single light and glass door which opens onto a staircase connecting with the second story. Over the storefront is a ca. 1970 canvas awning. The upper facade has added ca. 1970 paired one-over-one frame sash windows with concrete sills. At the roofline is a flat parapet with corbelled brick end caps.

The N. Lincoln Boulevard facade retains an original storefront with marble bulkheads, copper and glass display windows and a multi-light transom. Over the storefront is an added ca. 1970 shed roof canopy. On the upper facade are original one-over-one frame sash windows. Dividing the windows are brick pilasters with Ionic motif capitals and below the windows is brick corbelling. At the roofline are rectangular brick panels, brick corbelling and a circular stepped parapet. The interior retains original pressed metal ceilings, mezzanine level and display cases. (C)

8. 52-56 Public Square: Two-story brick commercial building constructed in a rectangular plan ca. 1925. On the main (south) facade is a storefront with added ca. 1970 metal and glass doors, bulkhead panels and display windows. Above the doors and windows is an original seven light transom of frame and opaque glass panels. At the east bay of the storefront is a ca. 1970 glass and frame door which opens onto a staircase connecting with the second story. The upper

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facade has original one-over-one frame sash windows with added storm windows. Above and below the windows are soldier and sailor brick courses of glazed brick designed in floral and rectangular panels. At the roofline is a stepped parapet, glazed brick banding and concrete coping. The interior has been remodeled with added dropped ceilings and wall and floor materials. (C)

9. 58 Public Square: Two-story brick commercial building constructed ca. 1925 in a rectangular plan. On the main (east) facade are two storefront bays with both storefronts altered ca. 1975 with new glass and frame doors, display windows and enclosed transom areas. Dividing the storefronts is a central bay containing a ca. 1970 glass and frame door which opens onto a staircase connecting to the second floor. On the upper facade are four pairs of one-over-one sash frame windows with concrete sills. Windows in the two south bays are original frame sash while the two north bays are frame sash added ca. 1960. Above the windows are concrete bands arranged in rectangular forms. At the roofline is a stepped parapet with concrete coping. The interior of both storefronts have been altered with dropped ceilings and added floor and wall materials. (C)

10. 64-66 Public Square, G.O. Kirkpatrick Building: Two-story brick commercial building constructed in a rectangular plan in 1921. On the main (east) facade is an original storefront with a recessed central entrance and an original single light glass and frame door. The storefront has glass and copper display windows, marble bulkheads and a Luxfer glass transom. The ceiling of the recessed area of the storefront is coffered. Behind the storefront display windows are original platforms and cases. Over the storefront is an added ca. 1975 shed roof canopy. On the first story level flanking the storefront are original Craftsman style light fixtures. On the upper facade are four one-over-one frame sash windows. Above the windows is decorative brick banding in rectangular patterns and at the roofline is a stepped parapet with a projecting central bay and circular brick banding. The interior retains an original pressed metal ceiling, mezzanine level and display cases. (C)

11. 72 Public Square: Two-story brick commercial building constructed in a rectangular plan in 1914. On the main (east) facade, the storefront was altered ca. 1970 with modern display windows, aluminum framing and frame bulkheads. Projecting from above the storefront is a ca. 1970 frame awning with a shed roof and square posts. On the second story are replacement ca. 1970 one-over-one metal sash windows with concrete sills. Above the windows is an original corbelled brick cornice and a stepped parapet at the roofline with concrete coping. On the south facade facing Main Street are three small storefronts with original single light glass and frame doors. Adjacent to these

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doors are single light one-over-one sash windows with arched transoms. Upper facade details on the south facade match those on the east facade with one-over-one sash windows and a stepped parapet at the roofline. The interior of the building has been altered with new wood paneling, dropped ceilings and added carpet. (C)

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established at the town in 1826 and in the 1830s several brick and frame storehouses contained a variety of businesses around the town square. In 1839, Hodgenville was officially incorporated and consisted of the commercial area of the public square and several blocks of residences. By the early 1840s, there was agitation by residents along the Nolin and Rolling Fork Rivers to form a separate county from Hardin County. After several years of discussion Larue County was formed in March of 1843 and was named for early Kentucky pioneer John LaRue. Hodgenville was designated the county seat and in 1844 a small, two-story brick courthouse was built on the east side of the public square.

The establishment of Hodgenville as the county seat made it both the commercial and governmental center of Larue County. County towns such as Magnolia and Buffalo were small crossroads settlements and never rivaled Hodgenville in size or importance. In the ante-bellum era Hodgenville contained several grist mills, an academy, two hotels and many frame and brick commercial buildings around the public square. A "building boom" was recorded as occurring on the square between 1840 and 1850 and by 1860 the population had grown to approximately 300 persons.

During the Civil War, the courthouse was burned by Confederate raiders but it was rebuilt soon after. No other major damage was recorded as having occurred in the town during the war years. In 1870, the town was described as having 8 stores, 2 hotels, a mill, a wagon and carriage shop and a population of 404 residents. The fortunes of the town improved in 1888 when a branch line of the Illinois Central Railroad was built connecting Hodgenville with Elizabethtown. This increased the town's importance as a farm produce shipping center and during the 1880s two banks were opened in buildings on the public square.

In the early 1900s, efforts began to purchase the Lincoln farm site three miles south of Hodgenville and create a national park. The Lincoln Farm Association purchased the site and a memorial building was constructed in 1911. The major north/south street running through Hodgenville was renamed Lincoln Boulevard and the first of many tourists began traveling to the community to visit the nearby Lincoln Memorial.

By 1914, the Hodgenville Public Square contained dozens of brick and frame commercial buildings, many of which were built in the building boom before the Civil War. The northwest side of the public square was occupied by many of the town's most prominent merchants and businesses. Located in this row of buildings were the G.O. Kirkpatrick clothing store, B. Soloman & Co., the Cofer, Marcum and Hargan general store, the Cumberland Telephone Company and the Larue National Bank. Altogether some twenty-six firms occupied buildings on the public square and along N. Lincoln Boulevard from Main Street to Water Street.

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This section of the downtown area square was completely transformed by a fire on April 28, 1914. The fire started in a harness shop and soon spread out of control eventually engulfing all buildings between Main Street and Water Street. All of the twenty-six firms in these blocks were temporarily put out of business and the loss from the fire was estimated at \$175,000. Businesses affected by the fire included the stores of G.O. Kirkpatrick, B. Soloman & Co., O.M. Mather & Co., F.A. Tate & Co., T.L. Borders and Son and the offices of Docia O'Bryan. The building occupied by the Larue National Bank was destroyed but the bank's papers were saved. Photographs taken after the fire show a few brick party walls and the banks's vault remaining but little else survived. Deeds from this period refer to salvage operations for the brick and metal on the site in the months after the fire.

The fire caused several firms to close permanently but the majority decided to rebuild and open for business once again. Soon after the fire the Larue National Bank contracted with architect A.S. Kellar of Louisville to design a new two-story brick building. Clothier G.O. Kirkpatrick who owned the adjacent lot also contracted with Kellar and both structures were designed with similar detailing. Builders Jenkins and Essex of Elizabethtown were hired to construct the buildings and they were complete and occupied by the end of 1914 (Buildings # 1 and 7).

Another building was completed in 1914 by the B. Soloman Company at the corner of N. Lincoln Blvd. and Water Street (Building # 6). The Soloman Company was one of the town's best known clothing and general merchandise stores and they lost their original building in the fire. By the end of the year a large, two-story brick building had been completed by the firm and the B. Soloman company reopened for business. The firm, however, was never able to recoup their losses and in 1915 the company was forced to close and the Soloman family sold the building and moved from Hodgenville. The building was then leased by a succession of hardware and general merchandise stores.

In 1915 and 1916, rebuilding continued on the vacant lots with two more buildings erected. On N. Lincoln Boulevard, Edward S. Smith constructed a two-story brick building adjacent to the Kirkpatrick store (Building # 2). Smith founded the Smith Drug Store which was to operate at this location during much of the 20th century. The building was designed with detailing similar to the Larue National Bank and Kirkpatrick store but it is not known if A.S. Kellar was also responsible for this design. Adjoining the north party wall of the Smith building, a one-story brick building was constructed by B.R. Kirkpatrick who leased the building to the L. Berlin Company (Building # 3).

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Facing the public square the first building to be constructed was the large two-story structure at the corner of W. Main Street and the square (Building # 11). This building was completed in 1915 and built by Virgil O'Bryan. The building is shown on the 1916 Sanborn Map of the downtown area as occupied by a general store. These six buildings are the only structures listed on the 1916 Sanborn map of Hodgenville.

Between 1916 and ca. 1925, the rest of the lots were developed with new one and two-story brick buildings constructed. Two one-story buildings were constructed on N. Lincoln Boulevard which completed this block. The small building at 110 N. Lincoln was built by B. R. Kirkpatrick ca. 1918 (Building # 4) while its neighbor at 112-114 N. Lincoln was built ca. 1918 by J.R. Marcum (Building # 5). On the public square three two-story buildings were completed in the early 1920s. G.O. Kirkpatrick built an ornate clothing store at 64-66 Public Square in 1921 (Building # 10). Joining his north wall at 58 Public Square Joe Shaw constructed a large two-story building ca. 1925 (Building # 9). This block was completed by the construction of a two-story building by Dr. James W. Thomas at 52-56 Public Square also around 1925 (Building # 8).

By 1925, all lots razed by the fire had been developed with one and two-story brick commercial buildings. Built within a ten year span, they possess a number of similarities in design and detailing. Of the eleven buildings in the district, seven retain parts or all of their original storefronts. These storefronts consist of brick, frame or marble bulkheads, copper and glass display windows, single light glass and frame doors and transoms with opaque or Luxfer prism glass panels. Some of the entrances are also recessed with coffered ceilings and glazed tile floors. The building erected by G.O. Kirkpatrick (Building # 10) has his name inscribed in tile in the recessed entry.

Upper facades of the buildings are also quite uniform. All display some type of glazed or textured brick decoration. Some brickwork is laid in simple patterns such as the rectangular panels above the windows at 58 Public Square (Building # 9) or the brick corbelling at the roofline at 118 N. Lincoln (Building # 6). More ornate brick designs were added to buildings at 100-106 N. Lincoln (Buildings # 1, 7 and 2). Square and rectangular patterns and floral patterns are found throughout these upper facades. All second story windows in the district are rectangular one-over-one frame sash with simple brick or concrete sills. At the rooflines most buildings have simple, unadorned stepped parapets.

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The interiors of most buildings consisted of open floor space for the display of goods and produce. Several of the buildings have had new partition walls added but the original plan and layout of all the buildings is discernable. Decoration in many of the buildings consists only of pressed metal ceilings and simple square newel posts and staircases. Exceptions are the two buildings constructed by G.O. Kirkpatrick who had open mezzanine levels with ornate railings and display cases on the second story. Both buildings retain these details and are the finest interiors in the district.

With the completion of the last buildings in the early 1920s, the northwest corner of the public square and west side of N. Lincoln Boulevard was the most concentrated area of commerce in Hodgenville. The southwest and southeast sides of the square contained a variety of public buildings and churches while the northeast side was dominated by the Lynn Hotel. No other section of Hodgenville or any of the smaller communities rivaled this area as the center for county commerce.

In the early 20th century, the buildings contained some of Larue County's best known businesses. The Larue National Bank was one of the first formed in the county and operated at 100 N. Lincoln Blvd. In 1920, the bank became known as the Farmers National Bank following a merger but the bank remained at this location until the mid-1970s. The Smith Drug Store at 104-106 N. Lincoln was one of the town's primary drug stores in the 20th century and continues to be a social location for residents. The G.O. Kirkpatrick store and J. R. Marcum stores were two of the county's best known clothing and general merchandise stores for several decades. Other important businesses which occupied these buildings include the Cumberland Telephone Company and the Larue County Herald.

For many years the public square was the center of county commerce and government. During the 1960s the square began a gradual decline when the historic courthouse was razed in 1966 and a new courthouse constructed several blocks from the square. A number of attorneys and other associated businesses moved their offices from the square closer to the present courthouse. During this time commercial activity moved from the downtown area to new shopping centers at several locations. Some buildings are now used for offices while others are vacant. Remodeling of the buildings has not been extensive with only four storefronts receiving major alterations. Some buildings have also had frame canopies added over the storefronts but these may be removed in the future. Interest in reviving the public square is now underway with several building renovations under consideration. The G.O. Kirkpatrick Building in the public square is expected to be the site of a county museum to cater to tourists and bring more activity to the public square area.

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Hodgenville Commercial Historic District

The buildings within the Hodgenville Commercial District represent the finest collection of historic commercial architecture in the county and were the center of commerce during much of the 20th century. Alterations and changes in the district have been minimal and it retains its original character and integrity.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Hodgenville Commercial District is illustrated on the accompanying map drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'. The district is bounded on the north by Water Street, on the east by N. Lincoln Blvd. and the Public Square, on the south by W. Main Street, and on the west by the rear lot lines of the building which extend along Walters Street and an unnamed alley. Lots in the district correspond to the following Larue County block and parcel numbers: HA-4-50; HA-4-51; HA-4-52; HA-4-53; HA-4-54; HA-4-55; HA-4-56; HA-4-57; HA-4-58; HA-4-59; HA-4-60; HA-4-61. District boundaries follow lot lines and street right-of-ways.

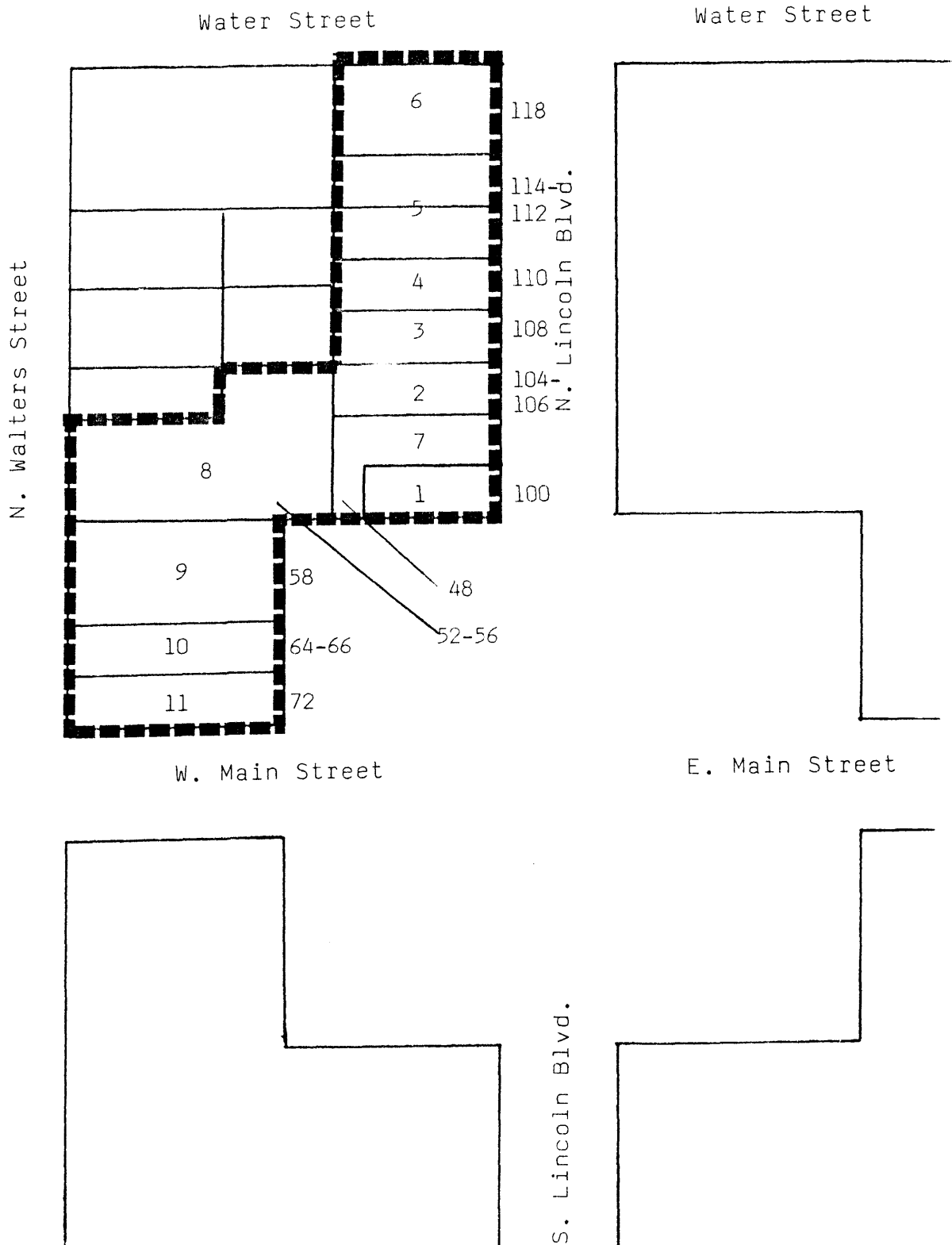
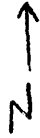
Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Hodgenville Commercial District was drawn to include all contiguous properties located on the block facing the northwest corner of the public square and N. Lincoln Blvd. The boundary excludes 20th century commercial buildings which face Walters Street as well as modern or altered structures across Main Street and N. Lincoln Boulevard. The boundary is drawn to include sufficient property to protect the integrity of the district.

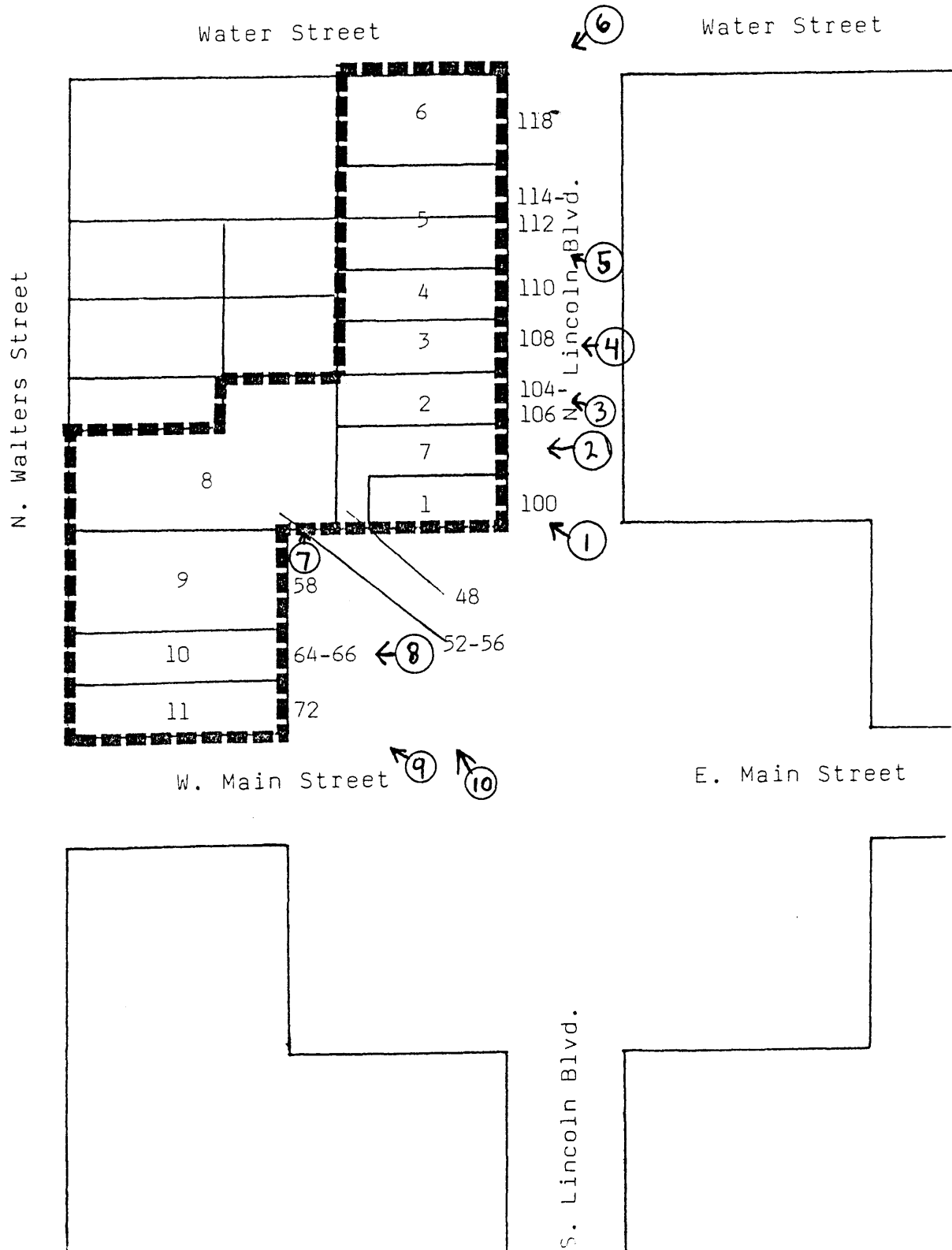
UTM References: Hodgenville Quadrant

Note: No further UTM references are necessary due to the size of the district.

Hodgenville Commercial Historic District
Hodgenville, Kentucky
Scale: 1" = 100'
District Boundary...■■■■■



Hodgenville Commercial Historic District
 Hodgenville, Kentucky
 Scale: 1" = 100'
 District Boundary...
 Photo Key.....0



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Photo Key

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Hodgenville Commercial Historic District

Hodgenville Commercial Historic District
Hodgenville, Kentucky
Photo Key

Photographs by: Thomason and Associates, Nashville, Tennessee
Date: March 31, 1988
Location of negatives: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky

Photo # 1
Building # 1
100 N. Lincoln Blvd.
View: Northwest

Photo # 2
Building # 7
48 Public Square
View: Northwest

Photo # 3
Building # 2
104-106 N. Lincoln Blvd.
View: Northwest

Photo # 4
Building # 3
108 N. Lincoln Blvd.
View: Northwest

Photo # 5
Building # 5
112-114 N. Lincoln Blvd.
View: Northwest

Photo # 6
Building # 6
118 N. Lincoln Blvd.
View: Southwest

Photo # 7
Building # 8
52-56 Public Square
View: North

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Hodgenville Commercial Historic District

Photo # 8
Building # 10
64-66 Public Square
View: West

Photo # 9
Building # 11
72 Public Square
View: West

Photo # 10
Streetscape, Public Square
View: Northwest