

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form

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This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. 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. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Hopkins County Multiple Properties Listing

B. Associated Historic Contexts

The Settlement and Development of Hopkins County, ca. 1790-1870.
Coal Mining and Rural Hopkins County, 1870-1935.
Community Development in Hopkins County, 1870-1935.
Growth and Development of Madisonville, 1870-1940.

C. Geographical Data

Boundaries of Hopkins County, Kentucky

☐ See continuation sheet

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

David L. Morgan
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation
NA Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

10-26-88
Date

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

12/12/88
Date

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Statement of Historic Contexts

OUTLINE OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

1. THE SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF HOPKINS COUNTY, ca. 1790-1870.
2. COAL MINING AND RURAL HOPKINS COUNTY, 1870-1935.
3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN HOPKINS COUNTY, 1870-1935
4. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF MADISONVILLE, 1870-1940

1. THE SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF HOPKINS COUNTY, 1807-1870

Hopkins County is located in the western section of Kentucky. The county contains 555 square miles and is bounded on the north by Webster County, on the west by the Tradewater river and Webster and Caldwell counties, on the south by Christian County, on the east by the Green River and Pond River and McLean and Muhlenburg counties. Most of the county drains into the Pond and Tradewater Rivers. The county is composed of rolling hills in most sections with elevations ranging between 400 and 600 feet above sea level. Hills in the Shakerag section, located in the northwest edge of the county, extend above 600 feet and the highest point in the county are the Peaks of Otter at 750 feet elevation west of Mortons Gap.

Between the hills are many valleys which contain rich farming soil. These valleys were some of the first settled areas in the county and continue to be utilized for farming. The lowland areas along the Pond and Green Rivers on the eastern edge of the county remained damp and wooded for most of the 19th century. It was not until the 20th century that these areas were drained and large scale farming occurred on these flat lowlands.

Geologically, the region is in the southern end of the Western Kentucky Coal Basin. These coal deposits are found in abundance in the central, southern and eastern sections of the county. The layers of coal rest upon Mississippian rock and are interspersed with layers of limestone, shale and sandstone. The uplifting of these rock layers has resulted in numerous faults which run primarily from northeast to southwest and the layers of coal are often found within fifty to two hundred feet of the surface. In some areas, outcroppings of coal also extended through the surface along small cliffs and projections. In addition to coal, there are also large deposits of natural gas and oil within the rock layers.

The hills and valleys of the county contain sites occupied by native Indians from the Archaic and Mississippian periods. The Fort Ridge site is a well known collection of mounds and a rough stone fort and other mounds have been identified throughout the county. Within the county are three pre-historic and historic archaeological sites listed on the National Register. These include Archaeological Site 15 Hk 8 (8/1/80) near Hanson; Archaeological Site 15 Hk 46

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and 47 (7/28/80) near White Plains; and Archaeological Site 15 Hk 79 (12/2/80) near Nebo. In the 17th and 18th centuries the land was hunting grounds for the Shawnee and Chickasaw Indians but they were gradually forced out by the arrival of white settlers. By the Battle of Fallen Timbers in Indiana in 1794, Indians had vacated the western section of Kentucky including Hopkins County.

European settlement began in earnest in the late 18th century when families made their way across Kentucky and down the Ohio River. This area was originally part of Henderson County which was created in 1798 and made up a large part of this region of Kentucky. In 1800, Henderson County had a population of just over 1,500 residents who were scattered throughout the territory. Lands in this section of Henderson County were reserved for soldiers who served in the Virginia regiments during the Revolutionary War. Land warrants or grants were issued in tracts according to rank of the soldiers. Subdivisions of large grants were made throughout the county but most soldiers sold their property to others who in turn sold sections of land or settled on the property. In the late 1790s numerous families settled in the central portion of Henderson County which would later become Hopkins County.

Hopkins County was created in 1807 with the county seat situated at Madisonville. The county was named in honor of General Samuel Hopkins, a Revolutionary War hero from Virginia who settled in Henderson, Kentucky in 1797. Also in, 1807 the Fiscal Court voted to form the city of Madisonville as the county seat and forty acres of land was purchased in the center of the county from landowners Daniel McGary and Solomon Silkwood. Madisonville was named in honor of President James Madison. The plan for the town was similar to many throughout the country with a central town square and adjacent streets laid out in a grid pattern. The county courthouse was located at the center of the town square lot.

The first courthouse built in Madisonville was a log building and a log jail was constructed in 1807. When the town was first laid out there were two primary streets, Main Street and Main-Cross (now Center Street). These two streets ran adjacent to the courthouse and formed the nucleus of the residential and commercial area of the town in the early 1800s. Lots were sold for \$52.50 in the area around the courthouse, but early settlement remained sparse. In 1810, the population of Madisonville stood at only 37 and there were only a few stores and residences scattered around the court square.

In its early years of settlement Hopkins County was characterized by numerous small farms with few towns of any size and importance. An examination of the 1807 tax list for the county reveals that most early settlers of the county lived on farms of 200 to 400 acres, although several were as large as 800 acres. Slaveholders were also few in these years and usually owned less than five slaves. The majority of landowners were cited as owning property along the river bottoms and their tributaries.

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Between 1810 and 1820, the population of the county doubled from 2,964 to 5,322 as settlers continued to emigrate into the area. Most of this growth took place in the rural areas while the towns continued to be small settlements. Towns such as Nebo and Veazey developed in these years but they consisted of only a dozen or so inhabitants and stores which served local farmers. Ashbyburg, founded in 1808 by Stephen Ashby, was a somewhat larger community which served as a shipping port on the Green River. However, with these few exceptions most of the county remained rural in nature in the early 1800s. Madisonville had a population of only several dozen in 1820 and it was the largest community in the county. It took twenty years for the population to double again with the 1840 census recording 9,171 inhabitants.

Farms throughout the early 19th century maintained an average size of 200 to 400 acres. Due to the extensive hills and rolling topography of the county only a certain amount of land was tillable. As late as 1870, the description of the county lists only one out of every eight acres in the county under cultivation with the rest in timber. The bottom areas along the county's many creeks and valleys were the most fertile and prized while much of the land along the Pond and Tradewater Rivers drained poorly and was left in timber during much of the 19th century. Slavery gradually grew in importance in the county before the Civil War with slaves making up 1,723, or 20% of the county's inhabitants in 1840. Census records indicate that most slaveholders owned less than five slaves and very few had more than ten. Slaves were used for both farm labor and as craftsman.

Buildings and structures from the county's ante-bellum period are very rare. Those which have survived are predominately one-story log structures which have detailing typical of log structures of the period in Kentucky. Log residences were built in Hopkins County throughout the 19th century with most surveyed structures constructed between ca. 1820 and ca. 1880. Common details include single pen, double pen or double pen dogtrot construction, hewn logs with half-dovetail notching and stone or brick exterior end chimneys. Roofs originally had a wood shake surface but all log residences had these roofs replaced with metal standing seam or other roof surfaces in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

The best remaining example of a double pen, dogtrot log residence of the early 19th century is the Bazle Edmiston House (HK-71). This log residence was constructed ca. 1850 by the son of an earlier settler. The house was sited on a hillside overlooking farm land along a creek bottom. The Bazle Edmiston House is in remarkably unaltered condition and the main facade has never been covered with weatherboard. The house's construction is typical of other log buildings in the county with half-dovetail notching, interior corner stairs and wood slat and mud chinking. Another significant log residence is the Gabriel

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Jennings House (HK-81), constructed ca. 1834 and built in a double pen design. This one and one-half story residence was the center of the small community of Chalklevel before the Civil War and served as the post office for the community. This house was built along one of the main roads in the western section of the county.

Stone construction in the county in the early 19th century was either non-existent or has not survived to the present. Ample amounts of sandstone were available to early settlers and stone use is found in the foundations and chimneys of county residences from this period. However, no stone residence is known to have been built in the county.

Brick construction from the early 19th century is also extremely rare. Brickmasons and brickyards listed in the county supplied bricks for foundations and chimneys as well as buildings. Less than a half dozen brick residences are known to have been built in the rural areas of the county but all but one of these are no longer extant or only have foundations remaining. Only the altered Beckley Jackson House (HK-4) survives to the present. The original section of this house was built ca. 1830 and is a single cell, central passage plan residence. The house was built as the residence of Beckley Jackson who ran a stagecoach stop on the Jackson Road. A two-story log building and stable stood across the road from the residence which served as an inn for travelers but these buildings are no longer extant. The Beckley Jackson House is the only standing ante-bellum brick structure in the county.

Early to mid-19th century timber frame houses are also very rare in the county. With only a few exceptions all early timber frame residences were either replaced during the late 19th and early 20th centuries or have been extensively altered. Unaltered examples of ante-bellum timber frame residences include the Frederick Miller House (HK-127), Bradford Porter House (HK-5), and James E. Slaton House (HK-63). The Frederick Miller House is a two-story double cell residence with a prominent central chimney. The house was built ca. 1850 by the Miller family who operated a nearby mill along Drakes Creek which no longer stands. The Bradford Porter House is a two-story, five bay, I-House remodeled ca. 1860. Its original form and plan remains evident despite later additions. The James E. Slaton House was also constructed in a two-story, five bay, I-House plan in 1864. These three buildings represent the only significant unaltered timber frame ante-bellum houses in the county.

Many churches, commercial buildings and storehouses were built prior to 1870 in the county but no unaltered examples remain standing. Very few mills were recorded as having been built on the county's waterways; none remain standing. Most mills from this period such as Evans Mill and Devers Mill were constructed along the Tradewater River. Other mills such as the mill operated by Frederick Miller on Drakes Creek were built on various smaller tributaries. No information about mill sites on the Pond River has been identified.

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Throughout the early 19th century roads were constructed to connect Madisonville with small communities in the county and with adjacent county seats. Important early roads connected Madisonville with Greenville, Providence Princeton and Hopkinsville while others led to small crossroads settlements such as Nebo and Dalton. Many of these historic road beds are still visible and most of the county's early 19th century historic structures are located along these right of ways. The Beckley Jackson House is located along the old Jackson Road which connected Madisonville and Webster County and the Gabriel Jennings House was built along the Dalton and Madisonville Road.

From 1840 until 1860 the county increased its population from 9,171 to 11,875 with 80% white inhabitants and 20% black slaves. In 1847, Hopkins County was described in Collins' History of Kentucky as containing good farmland with tobacco, corn and oats the chief products. Tobacco production was especially noteworthy as the county's principal export. The value of taxable property was listed at \$1,633,280, while the number of acres of land was listed at 303,302. The principal towns in the county were Madisonville, Ashbyburg and Providence. When Webster County was formed in 1860, its boundaries encompassed the town of Providence.

The county seat of Madisonville remained Hopkins County's primary commercial and governmental center. In 1847, Madisonville was listed as having a population of 450 and contained five stores, four taverns, six lawyers and twelve physicians. The town included a brick courthouse, a Christian Church and Methodist Church, an academy and female school.

In addition to Madisonville several small communities grew into significant centers of trade and commerce by 1860. Ashbyburg, on the Green River, became the dominant community of the northeastern section of the county and was a center for the shipment of tobacco. The community consisted of several stores, post office, residences and a population of fifty prior to 1860. Nebo, located in the north central section of the county, was surrounded by fertile farmland. By the 1850s, Nebo was a prosperous community with several tobacco factories, stores and residences. In the commercial area a two-story frame hotel was built which still stands although altered. An important early settler was Bradford L. Porter who served twice in the state legislature and constructed a log and frame residence to the east of Nebo (HK-5). The original log core of this house was built ca. 1830 and was remodeled ca. 1860 into its present form.

By the mid-19th century Hopkins County was characterized by hundreds of small and medium sized farms. Most of the county's commercial and governmental activity occurred at Madisonville which boasted a population of over 600 in 1860. In the rural areas of the county a number of crossroads communities arose which generally contained mills, shops and stores. Older towns such as Nebo and

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Ashbyburg and newer crossroad communities such as Manitou and Dalton were centers of trade for area farmers who shopped or brought goods for trade.

An important development of the period was the establishment of numerous tobacco mills and warehouses to serve area farmers. By the mid-19th century tobacco had emerged as one of the county's leading crops with over 3 million pounds grown in 1870. The county was one of the largest producers of tobacco in the western section of the state. Numerous tobacco mills and warehouses served farmers in Manitou, Nebo and Madisonville. Ashbyburg on the Green River and Wilson's Warehouse on the Tradewater River served as ports for farmers to ship their tobacco downriver to the Ohio. No structures associated with tobacco production remain from this period.

During the Civil War, volunteers joined both the Confederate and Union forces but the county remained largely Unionist in sympathies. Few engagements took place in the county but guerilla warfare between Confederate sympathizers and Unionists was common. Homes were burned, crops were destroyed and a number of civilians were killed during raids. The most significant action in the county was the cavalry raid in 1864 led by Confederate General Harlan Lyons which resulted in the destruction of the courthouse and other buildings in Madisonville.

Immediately after the Civil War, Hopkins County continued to be characterized by small farms and a reliance on tobacco and other farm products. However, events of the 1850s and early 1860s were beginning to move the county towards other economic sources. One of these was the coming of the Henderson and Nashville Railroad which began construction of a line south from Henderson towards Madisonville in the 1850s. Construction was halted during the Civil War and it was not until 1869 when the line was completed through the county towards Hopkinsville. Another major occurrence was the formation of coal companies to begin extensive mining of the vast coal deposits of the county. While some small scale coal mining had occurred prior to the Civil War, it was not until after the formation of companies with large capital and the availability of rail transportation that large scale mining was possible. After 1870, the growth and development of the county was to be significantly changed by these factors.

2. COAL MINING AND RURAL HOPKINS COUNTY, 1870-1935

Growth and Development of the Mine Industry

The history of Hopkins County after the Civil War was largely shaped by the growth and development of the county's coal industry. By the mid-19th century,

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Kentucky was recognized as one of the centers for coal deposits in America. Both the Eastern Kentucky mountains and hills of Western Kentucky were identified as containing large quantities of coal by various scientists. State Geologist Dr. David Dale Owen was the most famous of these and he published information on the state's coal deposits following surveys in the 1850s. Investors formed coal companies throughout the state to exploit the coal for profit. In the western section of the state several groups of investors organized and formed mining companies. The most important of these was the Hopkins Mastodon Coal and Iron Mining and Manufacturing Company which incorporated in 1856 and was based in Henderson with stockholders located in Hopkins, Henderson and Christian Counties.

Development of the county's coal was interrupted by the Civil War and many investors waited until the completion of railroads through the county to undertake mining operations. Prior to the coming of the railroad outcroppings of surface coal were mined by pick and shovel and transported by wagon or draft animals. With the coming of the railroads large scale mining techniques could be employed with the assurance of reliable and economic transportation. The firm of Winslow and Wilson and other investors promoted the construction of the Henderson and Nashville Railroad through the county in 1870. Testing soon occurred throughout the county and coal was discovered primarily in the central and southern and southwestern sections of the county. The rolling hills in the western and northern sections of the county did not have sufficient deposits to warrant shaft mining.

The earliest mines opened in the county were located along a series of coal seams which extended in a northeast/southwest direction in the south central section of the county, primarily from the Madisonville vicinity southward to the Christian County line. Along these seams the mines at Earlington, Morton's Gap and Mannington were developed. Coal seams were also found in the southwest section of the county where the mines at St. Charles, Ilsley and Carbondale were developed by 1900.

The county mines of the late 19th century were typical of mining operations throughout Kentucky and the Appalachians. Horizontal or vertical shafts were dug and miners used picks and shovels to break up the coal seams and load the coal into wagons or cars. The coal was then brought to the surface by rail or hoists and then taken to storage areas for rail shipment. Large tipples were constructed to load the coal onto the rail cars. Large mining operations demanded adequate rail transportation and spur lines were built to every major mine in the late 19th century.

In addition to the reliance on rail transportation the county's 19th century mines were also labor intensive and required large numbers of miners to successfully extract the coal. Thousands of families moved into the county with

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the promise of work in the mines and the population of the county grew rapidly with this influx of new residents. The mining companies built or contracted with local builders to erect hundreds of frame residences in the communities which evolved adjacent to the mine. These communities owe their existence to the growth and development of the mining operations of the late 19th century.

Earlington and the St. Bernard Coal Company

The Earlington Mine was opened in 1869 by John Bayliss Earle in the hill on the northern edge of present day Earlington. This mine was the first commercial underground mine developed in the county. The Earlington Mine was enlarged and superseded by the mines opened by the St. Bernard Coal Company in the 1870s. The St. Bernard Coal Company was formed by a group of eastern investors and purchased extensive amounts of land in the county. The No. 11 Mine and No. 9 Mine were both begun in 1870 and coal was sent northward on the railroad to Henderson during that year. The combined production of both mines in 1870 was 6,568 tons; by 1897 the No. 11 Mine produced over 111,000 tons.

Earlington became one of the largest towns in the county by 1900. The richness of the mines operated by the St. Bernard company required hundreds of miners and over forty blocks were laid out on either side of the railroad line to accomodate miner housing. Several large frame and brick residences were also built by the early 1900s by merchants and professionals of the town. The most notable of these was "Oakmoor" (HK-143), constructed in 1903 by Robert Moore, a St. Bernard Company official. This two-story frame residence was built in the Colonial Revival style and one was of the largest residences built in the town.

In addition to the many frame residences built in the town for the miners, several large brick commercial buildings were also erected along Main Street. One of the most notable of the early buildings was the Hotel Earlington (HK-138) constructed ca. 1880 by Thomas McEuen. This two-story brick Italianate building served as the town's main hotel during the late 19th century. Another notable building was the St. Bernard Company store which was built at the corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue. This building was operated by the St. Bernard company and supplied general merchandise and produce to its workers. Constructed ca. 1890, this brick building stood until destroyed by fire in 1986.

Along the northern edge of Earlington were the primary mines and coke ovens. The rail lines extended to the mines and a large roundhouse and shops serviced the trains. To provide the necessary water for the mine and railroad operations, the St. Bernard Company constructed Loch Mary in 1886 to the west of town. When it was completed it was the largest manmade lake in Kentucky in terms of

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acreage. An electric power plant was constructed on its eastern edge in 1903 to provide power for the company and the town. This plant was replaced in 1919 by the present Earlington Power Plant (HK-154).

Just to the northwest of Earlington, the Hecla Mine was opened in 1873 by the Hecla Coal Company. This company was formed by Jo Foard who purchased 1,000 acres of coal land in 1873. A rail spur was run to the Hecla Mine and coke ovens were also constructed. The company constructed residences and a store to serve their miners and at its peak the community contained over two hundred residents. A school was established in the 1870s to serve the children of the community. The mine was operated by the Hecla Coal Company until 1899 when it was sold to the St. Bernard Coal Company. Operations at the Hecla Mine were discontinued in 1918 and no structures from this mining operation remain.

Prior to 1900, six mines had been opened in Earlington and it was one of the most productive sections in the county's coal fields. This productivity continued after 1900 with three new mines at the southern and northern edges of the community which resulted in Earlington's steady growth over the next several decades. On the south edge of town the Sisk Mine was opened by the St. Bernard Coal Company in 1913 and produced 800 tons per day at its peak. This mine was operated by the company until 1924. In the same year the Nisbet Mine was opened by the St. Bernard Company at the northern edge of town and it too was operated by the company until 1924.

The last mine opened in the Earlington vicinity was the North Diamond Mine which was begun in 1924. The mine was started by the West Kentucky Coal Company which purchased the St. Bernard Company earlier that year. This purchase was the largest coal company transaction that took place in western Kentucky. During 1924, the mine employed approximately 150 miners and several new shafts were dug over the next several decades. This mine was one of the last underground mines operated in the county and did not close until 1950. In the last several decades all of the major industrial buildings related to the Earlington mining operations have been razed with the exception of the Earlington Power Plant (HK-154). In addition to these changes, alterations to late 19th and early 20th century residences and commercial buildings have also been extensive and no concentration of properties eligible for National Register district designation have been identified in the community.

Secondary Coal Mining Communities and Mines

The mining operation at Earlington was one of the largest in the county and led to the town's prominence as a center of the coal industry. In addition to Earlington, several other communities evolved in the late 19th century in

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response to the opening of mines in the central and southern sections of the county. The towns of Morton's Gap, Saint Charles and Nortonville grew into communities with populations of several hundred in these years with most residents employed in nearby mines. These three communities were laid out in a grid pattern around a central Main Street which contained commercial and public buildings as well as mining offices. Towns of fifty to one hundred population such as Mannington, Ilsley and Barnsley also developed in these years around area mines. This overall growth and development occurred in limited geographical area of the county resulting in a concentration of population and residential and commercial expansion.

In the Morton's Gap vicinity four major mines opened in the late 19th century influenced this community's development. These four were the Diamond Mine, South Diamond Mine, Kington-Wolfe Mine and Oak Hill Mine. The Diamond Mine was opened by the Diamond Coal and Mining Company in 1872 by a group of Illinois investors. This mine was a "drift" opening into the outcrop of the No. 9 coal seam which ran through the central section of the county. In 1882, the mine was conveyed to the St. Bernard Coal Company which operated the Diamond Mine until it was closed in 1897. St. Bernard also opened the South Diamond Mine in the early 1890s and by 1897 employed 155 workers. This mine became an important coaling station on the L&N Railroad after steam locomotives switched from wood to coal.

By the early 1900s Morton's Gap remained a small town of approximately 200 residents. The Kington-Wolfe Mine was opened in the 1890s on the west edge of Morton's Gap by mine operator W.W. Kington. Little is known of this small mine's operation, which ended by 1906 as Kington prepared to open the White City Mine in 1907. The opening of this mine had a dramatic effect on the growth of the community. Hundreds of miners moved to Morton's Gap to work the nearby mines and over the next ten years the population grew to almost 1,000. The Planter's Bank of Morton's Gap opened in 1908 and a sizeable commercial area developed along Main Street and the railroad.

This growth was largely due to the business and mining interests of W.W. Kington. Kington was a native of Hopkins County and was considered one of the most prominent mine operators of the early 20th century. In addition to operating mines in the Morton's Gap vicinity, Kington also constructed a two-story brick residence (HK-129) in the community on Crooked Street.

By 1930, most of the mines in the Morton's Gap vicinity had been exhausted and the mines closed. Strip mining has been extensive in the areas around the town in recent decades and provides employment for area residents. Most early 20th century commercial buildings have been altered or razed and no significant residential structures remain with the exception of the Kington house.

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Saint Charles was an important mining community of the late 19th century. The town was founded in 1874 by the St. Bernard Coal Company after the company opened a coal mine in 1873. A railroad spur line was extended north from the Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad to provide transportation for the coal. A post office was opened in 1873 and the company built a series of homes and commercial buildings for mine employees. The Saint Charles Mine was productive throughout the 1870s and 1880s and shipped thousands of tons of coal to Henderson annually.

The Saint Charles Mine was located on the northern edge of the town and a railroad line ran up Main Street to connect with the tippie. The St. Bernard Company built the first churches and schools in the community along with many of the early homes. By 1898, there were approximately 75 buildings constructed in Saint Charles. Only the northeastern part of the town near the mine was built and controlled exclusively by the company with the remainder of the town under private ownership.

The commercial area of Saint Charles contained both a company commissary and private grocery stores. In 1880, the population stood at 356 and by 1890 the community had grown to 449. By the early 1900s the mine had created a large pile of slack coal on Princeton Street. Slack Coal was very fine coal which was not in demand prior to World War II. With the passing of time the pile grew until it covered 14 acres and stood at 45 to 60 feet in height. This large pile stood until there was a demand for this type of coal in the 1940s. In 1904, the Fox Run Mine was opened northeast of Saint Charles which also provided employment for area miners. This mine remained open until 1940 and was a very productive mine during its operation. Since 1940 the community's population has remained around 400.

Like most coal towns in the county Saint Charles has lost most of its coal related commercial and industrial buildings. There are no remains of the any of the mine tipples or company buildings north of town and the old commissary and other related buildings have been razed. Most of the original miner's homes built by the company also no longer stand.

After 1900, the community of Nortonville grew rapidly with the development of nearby coal mines. Nortonville had been founded in 1870 by W.E. Norton at the junction of the Henderson and Nashville and Elizabethtown and Paducah railroads. Despite its location at the railroad junction the growth of the town proved disappointing and by the early 1900s the town was a small community of only a dozen or so buildings. In 1902, a group of investors purchased 2,000 acres from the Norton heirs and formed the Nortonville Coal Company. Several different shafts sunk on the western edge of the community proved to be very productive. Many new one-story frame residences were built in the community to support the large number of miners who came to the area. A large 25-room

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hotel was built adjacent to the railroad tracks and two-story brick commercial buildings were erected just off Main Street.

By 1910, Nortonville contained a population of 250 residents and supported several stores, hotels and other commercial businesses. In 1910, the Bank of Nortonville was established to serve the local area. A second mine, Nortonville Mine No. 2, was opened at the northwest edge of town in 1904 and produced coal until 1921. The original Nortonville Mine remained in operation until 1942. In recent decades the majority of early 20th century commercial buildings have been razed or altered and no historic mining features are extant. Alterations to residential properties have also been extensive.

In the central and southern sections of the county many smaller mining communities arose in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These often grew around a mine and railroad line and consisted of several dozen to one hundred residents. Mining operations in these communities occurred primarily from 1880 to 1920 when the mines were exhausted. In recent decades strip mining has been extensive in and around these communities and all original mine features have been razed. Much of the original commercial buildings and housing stock in these small communities have also been abandoned or razed with the closing of the mines.

The small town of Mannington grew along the Christian County line with the opening of the Clifton Mine by the Clifton Coal Company in the 1880s. This company built thirty-four coke ovens and in March of 1887 produced the first coke on a commercial basis in Kentucky. These coke ovens were some of the largest built in the county but they operated only until 1892 when the company was sold. No trace of the coke ovens remain and only a handful of altered structures are at the town site.

Another mining community known as Barnsley evolved on the L&N Railroad midway between Morton's gap and Earlington. Coal mines were opened at Barnsley in the early 1880s. By 1888 the mines employed around seventy-five workers and a town was laid out on either side of the railroad. A post office was established at the community in 1888. By the early 1890s the town had a population of about 200 residents, two churches and a company store run by the Co-operative Mining and Manufacturing Company. Barnsley reached its peak of mining in the early 1900s; no mining has occurred there in recent years. None of the commercial buildings remain standing and only a few residences are extant in the community.

The community of Ilsley was formed in 1883 when the Crabtree Mine was opened. The mine produced coal throughout the late 19th century but its

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operation did not result in the formation of a company town. Although the mine was small by county standards, a community of several dozen homes, post office, store and church grew up near the mine. A rail spur of the Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad was extended northward to the mine in the 1880s. One of the owners of the mine was Richard M. Salmon who constructed a two-story house (HK-98) in Ilsley. Salmon constructed this residence to be near his mining operation.

Coal development in the northwestern section of the county did not occur until after 1900. Testing revealed several rich seams in the Coiltown vicinity and three mines were opened in the early 1900s. The Rose Creek Mine was opened in 1904 and operated until 1921. This was followed by the Nebo Mine which opened in 1907 by the Nebo Consolidated Coal and Coke Company. This mine produced 60,000 tons of coal in 1914 but the seam soon ran out and the mine was closed in 1916. The last underground mine in this area was the Luton Mine opened in 1911 by S.K. Luton. The mine was purchased by the St. Bernard Coal Company in 1913 and operated until 1925.

The extensive mining operations from 1870 until 1935 had a dramatic effect on the growth, development and physical appearance of the county. Thousands of workers came to the county in search of work in the coal mines in the late 19th century and numerous mining towns evolved adjacent to the mines themselves. Most workers lived in small one-story frame dwellings erected by local builders or the coal companies. Communities such as Mortons Gap, Saint Charles and Nortonville are examples of coal towns of the period which were located along the railroad with downtown areas of commercial buildings. Few fine houses were built in these smaller communities and most of the mine owners lived in Madisonville or outside Hopkins County. Notable exceptions were W.W. Kington who resided in Mortons Gap and Richard Salmon who lived at Ilsley.

Despite the large number of industrial buildings erected by the coal companies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, only one significant building remains. This building is the Earlington Power Plant which provided power to the company's mines, rail yards and the community. Virtually all pre-1935 tipples, coke ovens, coal company offices and warehouses and railroad yard buildings no longer exist. These structures were dismantled soon after the mines were closed. Those which were not removed have since been razed through surface mining techniques which also have destroyed the historic mine sites themselves. Changes in coal mining technology such as strip mining methods have resulted in the loss of almost all of related historic sites and resources.

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN HOPKINS COUNTY, 1870-1935

While the development of the coal industry was the major influence on county growth in the late 19th century, other factors contributed to the rapid growth

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of the county. The county became a leading producer of tobacco and tobacco products in the late 19th century and communities such as Nebo and Manitou developed in the center of the tobacco growing region. The establishment of railroads through the county led to the formation of new communities such as White Plains, Nortonville and Hanson. Hanson later became an important tobacco shipping center in the county. In addition several entrepreneurs exploited natural waters at Dawson Springs and Kirkwood Springs in the southwest corner of the county.

Tobacco Towns: Nebo, Manitou and Hanson

A fertile band of farmland stretches across the north central section of the county south of the Shakerag Hills. This area was intensely farmed in the late 19th century as the demand for tobacco products increased worldwide. This demand led to increased amounts of acreage planted in tobacco as farmers turned to this profitable cash crop. Large quantities of dark burley tobacco were produced by area farmers in the late 19th century and in 1885 the Nebo District was listed in Kentucky: A History of the State as ranking third in the tobacco stemming districts in the United States. During its "tobacco period" Nebo contained seven tobacco factories, a population of over 1,000 residents, a hotel and several stores. Transportation of tobacco goods was facilitated by the completion of the Providence Branch of the L&N Railroad through Nebo in 1882.

By the early 1900s approximately a half dozen tobacco factories processed tobacco along Main Street and adjacent to the railroad tracks. For several decades the community remained prosperous with the Citizens Bank of Nebo organized in 1902. Several other brick commercial buildings were constructed in these years to house general stores but all of these structures have been razed or altered in recent years. None of the town's tobacco factories also remain extant. The area around Nebo contained several large tobacco plantations. Houses remaining from this period of tobacco production include the John W. Cox House (HK-9) and Bradford Porter House (HK-5). A prosperous tobacco farmer, Cox erected one of the few brick structures built in the rural areas of the county in the late 19th century. The Bradford Porter House was enlarged in 1860 into its present form and was the center of a large plantation just east of Nebo.

Located a few miles east of Nebo is the town of Manitou which also was a thriving tobacco center in the late 19th century. By the 1880s the L&N had constructed their line through the town and at its height it contained a tobacco factory, several tobacco warehouses, a few stores, a grist mill and hotel. The Pratt, Hill and Hodge tobacco factory was a well known establishment located adjacent to the railroad. No significant buildings from the tobacco era remain in

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Manitou. Several buildings along Main Street were destroyed by fire in 1899 and later fires burned the train depot and other commercial buildings. The tobacco factory burned in 1932 and was not rebuilt.

Although Hanson had its beginnings as a railroad community it soon gained prominence as a center for tobacco processing and shipping. In the late 19th century at least six tobacco factories were recorded in operation by 1900 and a well known plug tobacco brand called the "Hanson Twist" was shipped nationwide. A series of fires in the early 20th century destroyed several factories and all others have been razed in recent years. The buildings which make up the Hanson Historic District are associated with the commerce of the period rather than the tobacco industry.

With the exception of the Porter and Cox tobacco plantations, no other structures exist in these three communities which are directly associated with the tobacco industry of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. All of the original factories and warehouses have been destroyed by fire or were razed during after the 1920s when there was a general decline in tobacco processing. Tobacco remained an important cash crop during these years, however, with the rise of large companies and the consolidation of tobacco production many small factories and warehouses closed. Also in the early 1900s the demand for the county's dark fired burley tobacco lessened as light burley tobacco gained in popularity. These factors resulted in the county's decline as a prominent tobacco center in the state.

Railroad Communities: White Plains, Nortonville and Hanson

The railroad communities in the state developed after the completion of the Henderson and Nashville Railroad in 1869 which ran north/south through the county and the Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad in 1871 which ran east/west through the county. The Henderson and Nashville Railroad later became part of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad had financial difficulties and several different owners before becoming part of the Illinois Central line. Spur lines from these railroads were built throughout the central and southern sections of the county to provide access to the major coal mines.

White Plains developed in the 1870s after the completion of the Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad through the southeast section of the county. By the next year a small community containing five residences had begun to form adjacent to the railroad tracks. A store and depot were soon built and by the mid-1870s the town had over thirty inhabitants. By 1900, White Plains boasted several brick stores along Main Street facing the railroad tracks and approximately two dozen residences built on several blocks surrounding the commercial area. The 1906 opening of a factory which canned and marketed vegetables such as

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tomatoes, beans and corn provided employment for many residents and operated until 1944. The Farmer's Bank was incorporated in 1903 with a capital stock of \$15,000 and remained in operation until 1925. Several additional brick commercial buildings were constructed in the early 1900s facing the railroad tracks. The community's population peaked at around 200 in 1910. In recent years many of the town's early 20th century structures have been razed including all of the commercial area along Main Street.

In 1870, Captain W.E. Norton purchased 2,000 acres of land around the intersection of the Henderson and Nashville Railroad and Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad in the south central section of the county. Norton platted and divided the area around the junction of the two railroads and called his community Norton, later renamed Nortonville. Development was slower than Norton had anticipated. By 1900, the community consisted of only a few dozen residents with a post office, a general store, tobacco warehouse, rail depot, a church and several homes. It was not until the early 1900s that coal was mined near Nortonville and it grew into a major town.

Hanson was created in 1869 when the Henderson and Nashville Railroad line was completed to this point in the north central section of the county. The town was located on a fifty acre tract of land donated by Judge Robert Eastwood and the Rev. Roland Gooch. Hanson was named in honor of Henry B. Hanson, a civil engineer who worked for the railroad and platted the town. Hanson soon became a commercial center for the northern section of the county and contained several tobacco factories. A block of one and two story commercial buildings containing general stores, groceries and hardware stores was erected adjacent to the railroad tracks. A two-story brick hotel building was also constructed to serve the rail passenger traffic. By 1900, the town consisted of several dozen houses and a row of brick commercial buildings. These 19th century commercial structures remain intact and comprise the Hanson Historic District.

Hanson continued to be the dominant trading center for the northern area of the county in the early 1900s. The row of one and two story brick commercial buildings on Main Street sold a variety of general merchandise to area farmers and residents. In 1905 the three-story brick Hanson Roller Mills was constructed and in 1909 the Hanson Banking Company was organized and incorporated with a capital stock of \$15,000. In addition to these businesses, several tobacco factories and stemmeries produced large amounts of tobacco for shipment on the railroad. Hanson continued to be a busy commercial center throughout the early 1900s.

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The Resort Era: Dawson Springs and Kirkwood Springs

The development of Dawson Springs in the early 1900s transformed this section of the county from a rural farming area on the Tradewater River to the second largest community in the county. The discovery of the famous waters by W.I. Hamby in 1893 resulted in thousands of visitors to the springs by 1900. In 1900, the population of the town had increased to 1,200 and the Illinois Central Railroad reported ticket sales to the town of nearly 51,000. In addition to Hamby's spring, other entrepreneurs tapped the waters below the surface and built bathhouses and spas. The mineral waters that flowed from the springs contained traces of salts, iron and lithia which were advertised to "cure stomach, liver and kidney troubles and their kindred ailments". The soothing and beneficial effects of bathing in the waters were also touted. The positive medicinal effects claimed by the first visitors to the springs and its easy access by rail made Dawson Springs one of the main resort centers in the state in the early 1900s.

Between 1895 and 1910 several major hotels were built to accomodate these thousands of visitors. Most of these hotels were frame vernacular designs of two to three stories such as the Hotel Niles, Arcadia Hotel, Hamby Hotel and Phillips Hotel. They were built with large one-to three-story porches and porticos with Doric posts or milled columns. The Arcadia Hotel was one of the first to be constructed and was one of the main hotels in the town in the late 1890s.

The most significant hotel building constructed in Dawson Springs was the brick, five-story New Century Hotel built in 1902 at a cost of \$250,000 adjacent to the Hamby Well and Hotel. This was the largest building constructed in Dawson Springs. A group of investors headed by W.I. Hamby constructed the hotel which upon completion was described as "brand new, fabulous and indescribably modern, the envy of every town in west Kentucky". The hotel was equipped with running water, steam heat, bathrooms, electricity from its own plant and bellhops. More than any other building, the New Century Hotel illustrated the wealth and grandeur of Dawson Springs in the early 1900s.

In addition to the many large hotels, there also were scores of small rooming houses and boarding houses scattered throughout the community. At one point, fifty hotels and rooming houses operated in the city in the early 1900s. This figure includes both large hotels and private residences which rented out rooms during the tourist season. Between 1900 and 1920 the springs were immensely popular, with enough summer visitors to tide the hotels over the winter months. Visitors came from throughout the South and Midwest with a high percentage from west Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas. Most boarders stayed at the springs for ten days to two weeks.

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By 1915, there also were dozens of wells which tapped into the mineral waters and provided water for drinking and bathing. Various hotels and bathhouses provided large tubs or bathing pools which were heated and others provided vaporizers for patients to breathe the salt air of the boiling waters. The Dawson Salts and Water Company, which was owned by W.I. Hamby, boiled down eighty gallons of mineral water to one gallon to create the "Hamby Highball" which was bottled and sold worldwide.

While the wells and baths were the primary reason for Dawson Springs' popularity, there were other attractions. Several movie theaters opened in the community and bands played daily at the New Century and other hotels. Boats took visitors up the Tradewater River to view scenic cliffs and other landmarks. A miniature railroad ran from the New Century to the river and many vaudeville shows came to town for both indoor and outdoor performances.

From this activity of tourists and visitors, the commercial area of Dawson Springs grew rapidly in the early 1900s. A row of two-story commercial buildings were constructed between 1895 and 1910 along Main Street adjacent to the Hamby Well building and another row of masonry buildings was constructed along Railroad Avenue across from the railroad depot. These buildings housed restaurants, clothing stores, hardware stores and other mercantile establishments. The Bank of Dawson opened in 1899 and in 1907 the Commercial Bank of Dawson Springs was organized and built a two-story stone and brick building on Main Street. Both banks were consolidated in 1915.

The advance in medical facilities, the increase in automobile usage and decline, of the passenger railroad have all been cited as reasons for Dawson Springs' decline after 1920. Visitation steadily decreased during each decade and one by one many of the hotels and bathhouses were closed or razed. Finally, Dawson Springs residents watched the New Century Hotel burn in 1960. Today, no pre-1930 hotels remain. In recent years other well known buildings have been razed including the famed Hamby Well building which was listed on the National Register in 1972 with less than one dozen historic structures retaining integrity. The Commercial Bank and Merit Sanatorium are among this group and comprise part of the Dawson Springs Historic District.

To the north of Dawson Springs the smaller springs resort of Kirkwood Springs was developed in the early 20th century by Jim Kirkwood. Kirkwood developed his resort around a flowing spring which also had reputed medicinal value. By the early 1900s there were two hotels, three stores, twenty houses and a church and school at the site. With the passing of the resort era in the 1920s and 1930s the community declined and today none of the hotels or other significant structures remain. No other springs resort complex was ever developed in the county.

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Crossroads Communities

In addition to these towns a number of smaller communities developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Located along the rivers and at road junctions, many of these communities consisted of merely a few stores, several residences and often a post office. Small river communities included Olney on the Tradewater River and Bakersport on the Pond River. Crossroads settlements included Hamby, Veazey, Richland and Beulah. Often located at these crossroads communities were churches which served the local followers of various faiths. All of these churches were simple frame vernacular designs with minimal decorative detailing. The only brick church built during the late 19th century in the rural areas was the Zion Brick Missionary Church built in 1870 along the northern edge of the county (HK-49). Fraternal orders also constructed lodges at these crossroads which served as centers of socialization and community meetings. The Beulah Lodge (HK-69) is the only significant surviving example of a rural social hall.

In the late 19th and early 20th century the educational facilities of the county were expanded with the construction of new one room schoolhouses at many of the crossroads and small communities. Almost all of these have been razed with a few notable exceptions. The Cranor School built in 1914 still stands in good condition at the Cranor community in the southern section of the county (HK-96). Another notable early schoolhouse is the brick Munn's School located west of Madisonville (NR-1982). This school was constructed in 1907 and was the only brick school building constructed in the rural area of the county. Munn's School was an important school of the area and was operated by the school board until it was closed in 1955 during consolidation.

With the exception of these properties, no other significant structures have survived at the small rural crossroads communities. Most surviving structures are remodeled residences and abandoned commercial buildings in poor condition. The completion of modern roads through the county and increased automobile use enabled rural residents to shop and socialize with greater ease in the larger communities of the county. The small crossroads settlements declined in importance as commercial and social centers and most associated buildings have been razed or abandoned.

4. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF MADISONVILLE, 1870-1935

Between 1860 and 1870 the population of Madisonville increased from 602 to 1,022 in large part due to the construction of the railroad through the community and the town's growing importance as a coal shipping center. During the next two decades the population of the town doubled to over 2,000 in 1880

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as reflected by the construction of many new businesses and residences were constructed around the public square and adjacent streets.

By 1886, the downtown area had been transformed into a solid row of one-to three-story brick buildings which comprise much of the present day character of downtown Madisonville. Brick commercial buildings from this period were designed in variations of the Italianate style. Typical details included storefronts with cast iron columns or pilasters, large display windows and transoms. On the upper facade were arched windows with corbelled brick and sheet metal hood moldings and decorative brick or pressed metal at the roofline and cornice. Interiors often displayed pressed metal ceilings and ornate staircases leading to the upper floors.

The commercial buildings in the downtown area contained a variety of shops and offices. Listed on the 1886 Sanborn map were druggists, clothing stores, photography studios, meat markets, saloons and a bank. A masonic hall on North Main Street was constructed by this time and several other fraternal halls were shown as occupying the upper floors of buildings on Center Street. On the public square were the courthouse and court offices and a two-story jail. Scattered around the downtown area were livery stables, tobacco companies and the Patterson and Jones Carriage Works.

The tracks of the L&N Railroad (previously the Henderson and Nashville Railroad) running just west of the commercial area were another focal point of the town's commerce. Adjacent to the railroad were several hotels such as the Belmont Hotel and Shackelford Hotel, the Morton tobacco warehouse, the Jernigan tobacco stemmery and two wagon works. The Miles Opera House on Center Street next to the tracks provided vaudeville entertainment for the community.

In addition to these establishments the community possessed other important tobacco companies and mills. Tobacco stemmeries were operated by John Murphy, Holiman and Son, the Ramsey Brothers and Cotton and Ramsey. These companies were housed in large two-and three-story brick and frame buildings and employed dozens of workers. There were also several major mills such as the Exchange Mills, Madisonville Mills, and the Pritchett Woolen Mills. Also housed in in one to three-story buildings, these mills produced flour, sawn lumber, wool and other products and were powered by coal-fired steam engines. Despite the large number of operating mills and tobacco factories, no unaltered industrial buildings from this period survive.

The residential areas of the community were located to the west, south and east of the public square. The north/south streets such as Union, Scott and Franklin to the east and Seminary Street on the west were the primary residential areas of the middle and upper class. In addition to these areas a

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number of merchants and coal operators occupied residences along North Main Street. Worker housing was located along the northwestern and southwestern sections of the community and generally consisted of one-story T-plan, Cumberland and central passage plan residences.

Several notable residences were constructed in Madisonville's middle and upper class areas during these years. On Scott Street, engineer and brick mason L.D. Hockersmith built a Second Empire style residence with a mansard roof in 1881 (HK-240). Two Queen Anne residences were built along Seminary Street in the 1880s. The John B. Harvey House (HK-271) was built ca. 1888 with plans supplied by mail order architect George Barber of Knoxville, Tennessee. This two-story brick residence features original milled porches, an asymmetrical design and interior woodwork which are typical of the Queen Anne style. A similar residence was built in 1888 at the corner of Sugg and Seminary Street by Dr. Thomas Gardiner (HK-230), a well known physician of the community who would later be renowned in the state for his medical practice.

In addition to these homes a series of brick Queen Anne residences were constructed along a two block area of North Main Street just off the commercial district. These homes were the residences of several Madisonville businessmen such as L. D. McPherson and Preston B. Ross. The McPherson residence was constructed ca. 1890 and features a prominent corner tower in the Queen Anne style. This area contains the largest concentration of Victorian architecture in Madisonville and retains integrity as an historic district.

Between 1900 and 1910 the population of Madisonville almost tripled from 2,075 to close to 7,000. This dramatic rise came about as coal mining continued to grow and Madisonville emerged as a major commercial center of the region. In 1901, the town continued to boast of several major mills and tobacco warehouses and stemmeries. Other industries in the town were the Buckeye Spoke Company and the Ruby Planing Mill. Along the railroad tracks two hotels, the Grand and New Belmont, were erected in the 1890s as well as new passenger and freight depots.

By the early 1900s the commercial district was a dense section of one to three-story brick and stone buildings centered around the public square. These brick buildings shared common party walls and were the center of the town's commercial activity. They were constructed with similar storefront designs and upper facade detailing reflecting the Italianate and Classical styles of the period. The Morton Bank, built ca. 1890, was constructed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style with an elaborate coffered ceiling. Many buildings were built with decorative cast iron columns, arched windows, and decorative brick and pressed metal on upper facades. Little construction occurred in the commercial area after 1910 and the downtown area continues to retain much of its historic architecture from this period.

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Throughout the early 1900s, the city limits expanded in response to population growth. New residential areas enlarged the town's southern and western boundaries and hundreds of new one and two-story frame and brick residences were constructed throughout the city. The majority of these were simple frame vernacular dwellings constructed to house mine and mill laborers and their families. Housing for the several hundred miners employed by nearby mines such as the large Monarch Mine contributed to the town's building boom.

This building boom of the early 1900s was of great benefit to several Madisonville firms. One of the most successful was the Ruby Lumber Company run by J.E. Ruby and later his son, Turner Ruby. The Ruby company constructed many of the homes in Madisonville during this period. In 1901, Turner Ruby completed an eclectic two-story brick residence for himself on Union Street with both Gothic and Colonial Revival detailing (HK-253). This was one of the largest and most expensive homes built in Madisonville and retains its original appearance.

In 1910, Madisonville boasted four banks and two hundred stores selling a wide variety of goods and products. In addition to the commercial buildings and industries in Madisonville, the town boasted a light and water company, five hotels in the downtown area and along the railroad tracks, and a large theatre just off the public square. Twenty-six passenger trains served the town daily along with dozens of freight trains loaded with coal, lumber and other products. Three nearby coal mines employed several hundred workers; tobacco factories also were large employers. The town possessed two newspapers and thirty-six churches serving both white and black congregations.

Reliance on coal mining, railroad commerce and the tobacco trade continued on into the 1920s. Several new large buildings were constructed in the downtown area and residential sections of the community continued to expand. Buildings such as the Madisonville Public Library (HK-235) and several new public schools provided modern facilities for area residents. With the coming of the Depression and closing of several of the area mines, Madisonville fell on hard times. All but two of Madisonville's banks failed and many businesses were forced to close including several of the tobacco stemmeries. In the 1930s the federal and county governments sought to alleviate the unemployment situation with various building projects. The present U.S. Post Office was constructed in 1931 by the Works Progress Administration (HK-214) and the present Hopkins County Courthouse (Madisonville Commercial Historic District) was built by the county. These classically influenced buildings were the most significant to be built in Madisonville during the Depression.

Since 1940 Madisonville has grown to its current population of 17,000 residents. The city has expanded in several directions with modern suburbs but much of the early 20th century character of the residential and commercial areas

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remains intact. Alterations in the residential sections have been extensive in recent years. The addition of metal siding, enclosed porches, additions and other remodelings are common throughout the historic residential areas. Because of these changes only the residential district along North Main Street retains integrity. Many buildings in the commercial section have been altered on the storefront but retain their original character on the upper facades.

While coal mining remains an important industry of the county, it has been overshadowed in recent years by many new industrial plants which have diversified the local economy. Over two dozen manufacturers have moved to the Madisonville area. From 1960 to 1980 the number of manufacturing jobs in the county rose from 500 to 3,500, many provided by General Electric and Goodyear Tire's new plants. In 1968, Madisonville Community College was established to provide higher educational facilities. Madisonville has now entered a new phase of expansion based upon manufacturing and commerce.

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Associated Property Types

OUTLINE OF PROPERTY TYPES

1. PRE-1870 RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE (Begins Continuation Sheet F.1)
2. VICTORIAN RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE, 1870-1910 (Begins F.3)
3. COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS, 1870-1930 (Begins F.7)
4. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, 1890-1936 (Begins Continuation Sheet F.12)

1. PRE-1870 RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE

Description

Very few unaltered residential structures remain standing in Hopkins County. The earliest surviving residences are a small group of log, brick and frame homes built in the early to mid-19th century.

Some of the oldest remaining residences in the county are one and one-half story log structures constructed ca. 1830 to ca. 1840. They were generally constructed of hewn logs in rectangular single or double pen plans. A number of double pen plan residences were built with an open breezeway or "dogtrot" separating the two pens. Most log residences identified in the county from this period display half-dovetail notching, wood slat and mud chinking, gable roofs and exterior end sandstone or brick chimneys. Interiors were unfinished or later covered with wood lathe and plaster. Small corner stairs were added for access to the loft area and fireplaces displayed simple mantles.

The best unaltered example of a dogtrot design is the Bazle Edmiston House (HK-71). This house displays its original form and design and is the only surviving log residence identified in the county which was not covered entirely with weatherboard sheathing. All other log residences surveyed in the county were covered by weatherboard siding in the mid-to late-19th century. The original logs are exposed on the major facade. The Gabriel Jennings House (HK-81) is another example of double pen log construction, however, due to additions and alterations its significance is under criteria A for settlement.

Only one early 19th century brick dwelling exists in Hopkins County, the Beckley Jackson House (HK-4). The Beckley Jackson House is a one and one-half story central passage plan residence constructed in 1830. The house was built with Federal influenced detailing and the original Flemish bond brick construction and door and window jack arching remain visible. At the roofline is a row of corbelled brick. The house has interior end brick chimneys and vent basement windows. In the early 20th century a one-story enclosed porch was added on the main facade and the original door removed. Other changes have included interior remodelings and rear additions. No original interior features are extant.

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In addition to the Beckley Jackson House, the Chittendon P. Lyon House (NR-1972) is the only other remaining brick ante-bellum residence in the county. Constructed ca. 1857, the Lyon House was built in a central passage plan and with Italianate detailing. Other brick residences were constructed in the early 19th century but only ruins of these homes remain.

Pre-1870 frame residences are also rare with only three unaltered examples remaining. Both the Bradford Porter House (HK-5) and James E. Slaton House (HK-63) were built in central passage plan I-House designs. Both have exterior end brick chimneys, gable roofs, weatherboard siding, rectangular sash windows and doors with Greek Revival influenced interior doors and mantles. Original interior mantles and staircases exist in both residences and they have late 19th century additions.

The Frederick Miller House (HK-127) was constructed ca. 1850 and the house is a double pen plan with both rooms connected by a large interior stone chimney. Each pen has its own door on the main facade and is connected to the other by an interior door adjacent to the chimney. An original single pen kitchen was later added connected with the main section of the house. No other residence similar to the Miller House was located in the county.

A few other frame residences pre-dating 1870 have been identified in the county such as the Coil House in Madisonville. However, all of these have been significantly altered or were remodeled at a later period.

Significance:

The residences included within the pre-1870 property types are the earliest remaining dwellings in the county. The Gabriel Jennings House and Beckley Jackson House are significant under criteria A for their role in the settlement of the county. The Gabriel Jennings House was the center of the early 19th century community of Chalklevel and it served as the town's post office. The Beckley Jackson House served as an important stage coach stop along the Jackson Road and is the only identified building associated with the county's early road system.

Four residences are also significant under National Register criterion C for their architectural character. These four dwellings included in this property type represent the few remaining pre-1870 structures which retain integrity of form or are the only examples of their particular architectural types. The Bazle Edmiston House is the county's best example of an unaltered log double pen dogtrot design. Its original construction techniques and detailing remain extant and no substantial additions or alterations have occurred since the 19th century. The Bradford Porter House, James E. Slaton House and Frederick Miller House are significant under criteria C as the only identified pre-1870 frame dwellings

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in the county which have not been significantly altered. The Porter and Slaton residences are examples of two-story, five-bay I-Houses with rear one-story wings. The Miller residence is a two-story, double pen plan with a central stone chimney and is the only example of this type of construction in the county.

Registration Requirements

During the survey of the county approximately 25 properties were identified as having been constructed prior to 1870. Over a dozen of these were single or double pen log residences which had been significantly altered with later additions, had been moved or were in ruins. Other residences contained a log core with 20th century additions enveloping the house. Log dwellings which meet registration requirements display their original form and floor plans, retain the majority of their original historic fabric and maintain their integrity of site and location. Only the Bazle Edmiston House was identified as meeting these requirements.

Frame dwellings meeting registration requirements are those which are largely unaltered and display their original floor plan and detailing. These house types retain the majority of their original exterior features such as weatherboard siding, windows, doors, chimneys and decorative trim. Properties in this house type must also retain integrity of setting and location. The Bradford Porter House, James Slaton House and Frederick Miller House are those identified which meet these requirements.

2. Victorian Residential Architecture 1870-1910

Description

The majority of the residences surveyed in the county are frame or brick designs built between 1870 and 1910. In addition, hundreds of vernacular or Folk Victorian designs across the county were given typology codes. Most of the residences noted from this period are one to two-story frame buildings built in Cumberland, central passage plan or pyramidal roof designs. These residences were the homes of the county's miners, farmers, millhands and other laborers. Alterations to these frame buildings have been extensive.

High-style Victorian-era residences in the rural areas of the county were either rarely built or have not survived to the present. The only rural brick residence from this period is the John Cox House at Nebo (HK-9). This two-story brick I-House was constructed in 1875 and displays its original floor plan and design. On the main facade is an original entrance with three light sidelights and four light transom and at the rear is an original one-story brick kitchen. This residence has not been significantly altered. At Ilsley is a two-story frame

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I-House constructed ca. 1900 by mine owner Richard Salmon (HK-98). The house is typical of many other residences in the county and is significant primarily through its association with mine owner Salmon.

The largest number of high style residences from this period were built in the county's urban areas. As the population of the county increased so did trade and commerce as dozens of major coal mines were opened and a substantial middle class arose in communities such as Madisonville, Mortons Gap and Earlington. Large homes built in Second Empire, Italianate, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival designs were constructed by the middle and upper class mine operators, merchants and professionals.

One of the first buildings constructed in Earlington was the two-story Italianate design Hotel Earlington (HK-138) on Main Street. Built ca. 1880, this building served as the main hotel for the community in the late 19th century. The building was designed with large projecting bays with satined glass windows on the north facade, arched windows and doors and interior grained doors and milled staircase. The original porch has been removed.

Many fine homes were built during these years in Madisonville as the community prospered from its commercial growth, mills and railroad traffic. The residences of the middle and upper class were built within several blocks of the downtown commercial district. During the 1880s and 1890s a number of fine Queen Anne residences were built with detailing typical of the style such as an asymmetrical floor plan, bay windows, extensive milled porch decoration, eave and gable shingles and vergeboard, and high pitched gable and hipped roofs. A high percentage of these residences were of brick construction.

The finest examples of the Queen Anne style are found along the west edge of the commercial district and along North Main Street. The John B. Harvey House on N. Seminary Street is an excellent unaltered brick Queen Anne residence (HK-271). It was designed by the noted mail order architect George Barber of Knoxville, Tennessee. This residence was built with large porches on the main facade and has a horseshoe shaped stained glass window on the north facade. The interior detailing is also extensive. The Dr. Thomas Gardiner House on Sugg Street is also a noteworthy design (HK-230). This two-story brick residence has had its original porch removed but displays its arched windows, projecting two-story bay and attic porch.

Along the 200 and 300 block of North Main Street a series of fine brick Queen Anne residences were erected. At 208 and 302 North Main Street are typical examples which have projecting corner bays or conical roofed towers. Both residences display their original porches and other exterior decoration. Three other residences in these two blocks are also good examples of the Queen Anne style. These residences and other early 20th century designs are the most

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significant grouping of residential architecture in Madisonville and comprise the North Main Street Historic District.

In addition to these Queen Anne homes, other high style residences were built in these years. At 218 S. Scott Street is the L.D. Hockersmith House constructed in 1881 in the Second Empire style (HK-240). This residence is the only extant example of the style in the county and displays its original straight sided mansard roof. The house was built in a side passage plan and retains original stone quions. An eclectic combination of the Colonial Revival and Gothic styles was built by Turner Ruby on Union Street (HK-253). This two-story brick residence displays an original doorway with sidelights and transom and Ionic porch on the main facade and central Gothic projecting bay.

Other Colonial Revival design residences were built in Earlington and Mortons Gap. Paul Moore constructed Oakmoor (HK-143) in 1901 on a hill overlooking Main Street. This two-story frame residence has an original wraparound porch with Doric motif columns and milled balusters in the railing as well as the original entrance with a leaded glass transom. A brick Colonial Revival style residence (HK-129) was built ca. 1911 by W.W. Kington in Mortons Gap. This two-story residence has lost its original porch on the main facade but displays its original porch on the west facade and its original single light glass and frame door. Because of alterations the house is significant primarily through its association with mine owner W.W. Kington.

The residences constructed in the county between 1870 and 1910 are typical of those built across Kentucky in this period. Notable examples of the Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles were built primarily in the urban centers. The majority of significant structures were built in Madisonville within several blocks of the downtown area. Most of the residential architecture of this period are less pretentious interpretations of these styles or Folk Victorian designs. From 1910 to 1935, few significant residences were built in the county, with most designs being variations of the Bungalow and Craftsman styles. Examples of these types of residences are included in the North Main Historic District in Madisonville.

Significance

Property types nominated from this period of residential architecture are significant primarily under criteria C. From 1870 until 1910, the county grew at an unprecedented rate as coal mining and commerce increased. Communities such as Earlington and Mortons Gap were founded during these years as centers for the coal mining industry and Madisonville expanded and grew to a population of almost 7,000 in 1910. The majority of residences built during this period were frame vernacular or Folk Victorian designs typical of the era. High style residences were rarely built in the rural areas of the county and most of the

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significant architecture was built by the wealthier mine owners, merchants and professionals in the urban areas.

Included under criteria C are designs which are particularly good examples of a style or are the only extant examples of a style. The John Cox House is the only rural example of a brick I-House residence of the late 19th century. This residence has not been significantly altered and also retains its original kitchen. The L.D. Hockersmith House in Madisonville is the only extant example of the Second Empire style in the county. Although altered with modern windows and removal of the front porch, the house retains its original form and is an important example of a local interpretation of the urban Second Empire style.

The John Harvey House and Dr. Thomas Gardiner House are both excellent examples of the Queen Anne style and retain much of their original detailing. The Dr. Thomas Gardiner House is also significant under criterion B for its association with prominent physician Dr. Thomas Gardiner. In addition to these residences, a significant grouping of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style houses are located along North Main Street in Madisonville. Significant Colonial Revival designs were also built in Earlington and Madisonville. Oakmoor is one of the largest residences built in Earlington and displays its original architectural design. The Turner Ruby House in Madisonville is also a noteworthy design of the period and is also significant under criterion B for its association with prominent builder, Turner Ruby.

Other buildings in the county are primarily significant for their associations with the coal mining industry of the period. The Richard Salmon House and W.W. Kington House are both significant under criterion B for their associations with these mine operators of the early 20th century. These two residences are the only identified homes of mine owners outside of Madisonville. Due to alterations, these buildings are not eligible under criterion C. The Hotel Earlington is notable under criteria A for its association with the development of the community. Originally built as a residence, the building was used in the late 19th century as a hotel and was the main hotel of Earlington until the early 20th century. It too has been altered and is not eligible under criteria C.

The nine properties and historic district included in this property type are the finest examples of their styles from the period or are notable for their associations with the growth and development of the county's coal industry. The majority of these residences are located in the county's urban areas and represent the largest and finest houses built in this era.

Registration Requirements

Residential properties constructed between 1870 and 1910 were considered eligible under criteria C if they were: particularly noteworthy examples of an

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architectural type; retained their original form and plan; retained their original integrity of design; and retained their integrity of site and/or neighborhood association. The only exception to these requirements is the L.D. Hockersmith House which is included as an example of a local interpretation of the urban Second Empire townhouse. This residence is the only example of its type in the county, retains its basic form and is a significant structure despite recent alterations. Properties which had been altered and not eligible under criteria C were included if they were associated with noteworthy individuals and/or were particularly associated with the growth and development patterns of the period.

Alterations to residential properties of this era are extremely common and although large concentrations of historic residential architecture are located in the urban areas of the county most do not retain integrity. Only the small district along North Main Street was deemed sufficiently notable and unaltered to meet National Register criteria.

3. Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Religious Buildings, 1870-1920

Description

From 1870 until 1920, the population of Hopkins County rose from 14,000 to over 30,000 residents. This increase in population had a major impact not only on residential construction but also on the number of commercial, industrial, institutional and religious buildings erected in the county. Many of the buildings and structures from this period have been razed or replaced in recent decades but significant individual properties or concentrations of properties survive.

The rise of the coal industry and construction of railroads through the county had a major impact on the commercial growth of the county. As the population increased so did the demand for new businesses and dozens of groceries, clothing stores, hardware stores, general merchandise stores, banks and other commercial structures were erected throughout the county. A number of these commercial businesses were located at crossroads settlements in the rural areas to serve farmers of the surrounding region. These general merchandise stores often served as post offices and social centers. Very few of these rural commercial buildings survive, however, and none retain integrity of design and construction.

The larger communities throughout the county also developed or prospered in these years. Towns such as White Plains, Nortonville, Mortons Gap and Earlington had several brick one-and two-story commercial buildings erected in their downtown areas. These buildings often faced or were located adjacent to the railroad lines which ran through the community. In addition to general merchandise stores, these commercial centers often contained flour mills,

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tobacco warehouses and stemmeries, and freight and passenger depots. In many communities few of these historic structures survive. Fires have destroyed many buildings in the commercial areas of White Plains and Earlington, including the St. Bernard Mining Company store on Earlington's Main Street. No major concentrations of unaltered commercial buildings survive in Nortonville, Mortons Gap, Saint Charles or Nebo.

The communities with the most significant concentrations of commercial buildings are Dawson Springs, Hanson and Madisonville. Dawson Springs' rapid prominence after 1895 as a springs resort resulted in a substantial building boom of both commercial buildings and hotels. Over a dozen major hotels operated there in the early 1900s and a substantial row of two-story brick commercial buildings were erected adjacent to the railroad line along Railroad Avenue and Main Street. With the decline of the resort industry, virtually all of the town's major hotels were lost to fire or deterioration. The only major bathhouse to survive unaltered from this period is the Merit Sanatorium. Adjacent to this building is a fine row of two-story commercial buildings including the Dawson Springs Bank. Most buildings were constructed with Italianate-influenced detailing with arched windows and cornices of sheet metal and corbelled brick. The Dawson Springs Bank built in 1907 shows the influence of the Neo-Classical style. This row of commercial structures comprise the Dawson Springs Historic District.

Hanson was a railroad town which was settled after the completion of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in 1870. The town became a rail center for farmers of the region and numerous tobacco warehouses and commercial buildings were constructed on Main Street adjacent to the railroad line. A fire in 1889 destroyed much of the downtown area and all of the warehouses were later razed. The downtown area, however, was rebuilt with a row of one and two-story brick and frame buildings. Most of these buildings on Main Street were built between 1890 and 1910 and make up the present downtown area. The Hanson Commercial District is a small but relatively unaltered row of late 19th century vernacular commercial buildings. They contained groceries and general merchandise stores from the period and retain original storefronts with cast iron pilasters and columns, decorative brick corbelling and other notable features.

The largest concentration of historic commercial buildings from this period is located in downtown Madisonville. Madisonville has been the primary commercial center of the county since the 19th century with stores erected around the public square as early as 1807. Prior to 1870, the commercial area consisted of one-and two-story brick and frame stores centered around the courthouse on Main and Center Street. With the coming of the railroad and boom in the coal mining industry between 1870 and 1920, the downtown area was transformed. All pre-1870 commercial buildings were razed and new one-to three-story masonry buildings were constructed.

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The majority of these commercial buildings were designed in the Italianate style with features such as cast iron columns on the storefront, arched windows on the upper stories and decorative sheet metal or corbelled brick. Notable buildings of this period included the Miles Opera House on West Center Street, and the present day buildings at 11-21 S. Main Street and 103-107 W. Centre Street. In addition, the Morton's Bank, an exceptional Richardsonian Romanesque design, was built on North Main Street. This two-story stone building features large arched openings on the first story and a prominent gable at the roofline. Other notable buildings constructed in the downtown area included the Neo-Classical Farmer's National Bank at the corner of Main and East Center built in 1907.

By 1920, the downtown area had largely achieved its present appearance. In recent years many of the storefronts have been altered, but most upper facades retain their original design and detailing. Most buildings are occupied and the historic downtown area of Madisonville continues to retain its early 20th century appearance.

One of the surprising results of the survey was the lack of industrial buildings associated with the coal mining industry. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries there were dozens of coal mining sites and structures scattered throughout the county. Structures included coal tipples, coke ovens, shops, warehouses, railroad sidings and related buildings, and mine offices. As the mines were exhausted, many of these structures were dismantled and moved to other locations. After World War II, the sites were surface mined when strip mining began on a large scale. Because of the extensiveness of the county's surface mining operations, historic mining structures that had not been moved have been destroyed.

The only major industrial building from this period standing in the county is the Earlington Power Plant at Earlington (HK-154). Constructed in 1919, this large brick building served as the electric power operation for the St. Bernard Mines in the Earlington vicinity during the 1920s and 1930s. The plant was later sold to Kentucky Utilities which continues to own the building. This building retains its original exterior appearance with metal casement windows and decorative brick banding. The interior also retains its original open design, although the electric turbines have been removed.

Institutional buildings are rare in the county as most pre-1910 schools, academies, hospital and social buildings no longer remain standing. In the rural areas of the county, dozens of one story frame schoolhouses were built in the late 19th and early 20th century. The only unaltered school from this period to survive is the Cranor School (HK-96). This one room schoolhouse is a simple gable front design with rectangular doors and windows. With its unaltered exterior, it is the best remaining example of an early 20th century school.

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Other school buildings constructed in the larger communities such as Madisonville have been altered, razed or are nondescript.

Another notable rural building is the Beulah Lodge in the small community of Beulah (HK-69). This two-story gable front building was constructed ca. 1908 and has been used both as a church and as a meeting hall for the Beulah Masonic Lodge. No other social lodge building survives in the rural areas of the county.

While a number of frame religious buildings are standing in the rural areas of the county, most are relatively new replacements of historic structures or have been altered. Rural brick churches are rare with only the Zion Brick Missionary Church remaining (HK-49). This one-story brick church, erected in 1870, is a gable front design with arched windows and corbelled brick decoration. A frame addition was added at the rear of the structure but the original design and detailing of the brick structure remain.

Significance

Late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings represent a substantial number of the county's significant resources. These properties are significant under criterion C for their architectural character. Taken individually, very few of the extant commercial resources would be eligible on their own merits. However, the significant groupings of historic commercial structures in Madisonville, Hanson and Dawson Springs illustrate an important architectural legacy of the county and meet the criteria of National Register districts. The majority of buildings in each district are contributing and retain their historic architectural designs above the storefront level. In Hanson many of the historic storefronts are intact as well.

These commercial districts are also significant under criterion A for their associations with the growth and development of county commerce. Between 1870 and 1920, rapid population growth resulted in a boom of commercial expansion throughout the county. Many communities witnessed blocks of brick commercial buildings erected in their downtown areas. This was especially pronounced in Madisonville whose downtown area was totally transformed into a bustling district of one-to three-story commercial buildings containing banks, general merchandise stores, professional offices and hotels. This section of the city has continued to be an important commercial area of Madisonville.

The few remaining institutional buildings in the county such as the Cranor School and Beulah Lodge are significant under criterion A for their associations with the county's educational system and social organizations of the late 19th century. The Cranor School is the only unaltered example of a late 19th century one-room schoolhouse. It was one of dozens of such schools which were built by

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the county in the 1890s as part of the expansion of the public school system and as such is an important reminder of this period. The Munn's Schoolhouse, listed on the National Register in 1983, is the only other significant rural school building located in the county. The Beulah Lodge is the oldest standing social lodge building in the rural areas of the county and continues to be used by the local masonic lodge. The building has served throughout its history as a church, social center and community meeting hall.

The Earlington Power Plant is significant under criterion C for its architectural design. This large three-story brick industrial building was one of the largest structures erected in the early 20th century and retains its original form and exterior design. Its casement windows and brick decoration are characteristic features from this era of industrial buildings. The plant is also significant under criterion A for its association with the county's coal mining industry. The building was erected in 1919 to serve as the power source for the St. Bernard Mining Company operations at Earlington. The plant was utilized by the coal company for several decades of the early 20th century and it continues to be a landmark of the community. The building is Hopkins County's only major industrial building.

The Zion Brick Missionary Church is the only brick religious building constructed in the rural areas of the county in the 19th century. The church retains its original form and ornamentation and is significant under criterion C. This fine example of rural brick church architecture is the only recorded example of brick religious construction in the county outside of the major communities. In the larger towns of Earlington, Dawson Springs and Madisonville, all of the historic brick and frame churches from the 19th and early 20th centuries have been razed or altered and do not meet National Register criteria.

Registration Requirements

The commercial, industrial, institutional and religious buildings represented in these property types are the only unaltered examples of their type or are the largest intact concentrations of properties. Commercial buildings were considered significant if they possessed most of their historic detailing on their upper facades, retained their original site and setting and were of particular importance in the growth and development of the community. Following these requirements several buildings were identified as individually eligible in Dawson Springs and Madisonville such as the Dawson Springs Bank, Merit Sanatorium and Morton Bank. No other individually eligible properties met registration requirements in the other communities or rural areas of the county.

In addition to the identification of individually eligible properties, several concentrations of commercial structures were evaluated as meeting National

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Register district requirements. Groupings of commercial structures were considered significant if they possessed a continuity of buildings or sites united by their physical development or past events and retained a sense of time and place. More specific criteria for district registration include: a geographically defined area in which over 75% of the properties were associated by their physical development or commercial history; where over 75% of the contributing buildings retain original upper facade detailing or original storefronts; retain integrity of feeling and association; and where vacant lots and intrusive street elements are minimal.

Districts meeting these requirements were commercial sections of Hanson, Dawson Springs and Madisonville. All of the Hanson commercial area met this criteria for its architecture and association with its period of late 19th and early 20th century commercial growth. The Dawson Springs district contains buildings and sites associated with its resort era of the early 20th century and the downtown area of Madisonville also retains extensive historic fabric from its late 19th and early 20th century period of commercial prosperity. The individually eligible properties in Dawson Springs and Madisonville were included as contributing buildings in their respective districts.

The institutional, industrial and religious buildings represent the only extant examples of their particular type. These buildings were considered significant because they are the only extant examples of their type and because they retain their historic design, integrity of construction and integrity of site. No other examples of unaltered buildings of this type were located in the county survey. Historic religious buildings in the urban areas of the county have either been altered, razed, replaced with modern structures or are of nondescript design.

4. Public Buildings, 1900-1936

Description

A series of public buildings was constructed in the early 20th century in Madisonville: the Madisonville Public Library, U.S. Post Office and Hopkins County Courthouse. Other important structures such as the county jail and city hall have been razed in recent years and replaced with modern buildings.

The Madisonville Public Library (HK-235) erected in 1925, is an example of the Colonial Revival style. The building was constructed in a rectangular plan, is two-stories in height and of brick construction. On the main facade is an arched entrance and pedimented surround with Doric pilasters. With the exception of some window enclosures the building is unaltered. The interior of the building retains its original floor plan and layout and is presently used to house the museum of the Hopkins County Historical Society.

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The U.S. Post Office is a one-story brick Colonial Revival design building constructed in 1931 (HK-214). The post office design is typical of those built by the federal government during the Depression. The building displays its original brick decoration, pedimented entrance and stone cornice. The interior also retains its original post office box area and lobby. An addition was placed on the rear of the building in the 1960s and windows have been replaced. The building continues to be the central location of the Madisonville post office.

On the public square is the Hopkins County Courthouse constructed in 1936. This two-story Neo-Classical style building displays its original pedimented columned portico on the main facade. The building is of brick construction with brick quoining, a concrete belt course and a concrete cornice. The building continues to be utilized as the county courthouse and is included in the Madisonville Commercial District.

Significance

These three public buildings are significant under criterion C for their architectural designs of the early 20th century. All were built with Colonial Revival or Neo-Classical detailing typical of the period and retain their original character. The buildings are also notable under criterion A for their associations with the patterns of the town's commercial growth and decline. During the 1920s Madisonville continued to grow and prosper. The county's commercial businesses expanded and mining continued to be a major source of income. This prosperity was represented by the construction of the public library for Madisonville using city funds. It was the first library built in the city and is the only public building remaining from this era.

In the late 1920s the post office for Madisonville was determined to be inadequate and plans were made to erect a new building on North Main Street. Construction of the building in 1931 coincided with rising unemployment in the county. In the first years of the Depression its erection provided a number of jobs for county laborers. A similar situation was repeated in 1936 when the courthouse was determined to be obsolete and the present courthouse was built on its site using county and federal funds. This large two-story building also provided important work for many laborers during the Depression.

These three buildings represent the major public buildings which were constructed in the county in the early 20th century. None of the smaller communities had similar buildings erected during these years. These buildings are the only remaining examples of public-funded construction which are extant in the county.

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Registration Requirements

The buildings within this property type represent a small but notable grouping of early 20th century public buildings. They are the only examples of public funded construction remaining from this era and have not been significantly altered. The properties retain their original architectural character, integrity of construction and integrity of site. No other public buildings from this period were identified in the county.

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

☒ See continuation sheet

H. Major Bibliographical References

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency

- ☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky

I. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip Thomason, Architectural Historian
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Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

The survey of Hopkins County's historic structures began in 1981 by the staff of the Kentucky Heritage Council. A total of 41 properties were surveyed, primarily in the Hanson, Ashbyburg and Nebo areas. In 1986 to late 1987, the survey was continued with funding provided by the Kentucky Heritage Council and Hopkins County Historical Society. At the conclusion of the survey a total of 289 properties were inventoried. Conducting the 1986-87 survey was Thomason and Associates of Nashville, Tennessee. Project Director was Philip Thomason who has a M.A. in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State University. Project Assistants were Miranda Roche and Mary Matter. Ms. Roche has a B.A. in Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee while Ms. Matter has a B.A. in Architectural History from the University of Virginia.

The recent survey was conducted in accordance with established procedures set forth by the survey program of the Kentucky Heritage Council. Each road that was passable in the county was driven and properties were examined to ascertain age and appearance. All properties constructed prior to 1880 were photographed and a state inventory form completed. Sites were marked on USGS quad maps to pinpoint their location. Properties of particular significance constructed between 1880 and 1940 were also inventoried in the same manner. Common building forms built between 1880 and 1940 were given typology codes and marked on the USGS maps.

Prior to this survey only three properties in the county had been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These properties were:

1. Hamby Well Building - 120 S. Main Street, Dawson Springs (4/19/72)
Demolished in 1986.
2. Chittendon P. Lyon House - 304 Union Street, Madisonville (10/18/76).
3. Munn's Schoolhouse - Princeton Road, Madisonville (8/30/83).

In 1987, the Hopkins County Historical Society was awarded a matching grant by the Kentucky Heritage Council to fund a multiple resource nomination for the county. Thomason and Associates was selected as the project consultant. Through on-site analysis by both the consultant and Kentucky Heritage Council staff a total of 21 individual properties and four historic districts were deemed eligible for listing on the National Register. The majority of these properties are residences and commercial buildings constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. No bridges surveyed were determined by the consultant and staff to meet National Register criteria.

Historical research on the county and eligible properties was performed by the consultant during the survey period. Published secondary sources on the county are few and there is no definitive county history. However, the Historical

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Society of Hopkins County has published yearly annuals since 1976 and these contained a great deal of general information on county history. Primary deed research and census research was performed by the consultant for the individually eligible properties. Additional information was supplied by county historian, Harold Ledbetter.

The properties included in this multiple property listing are designated by their county code (HK) and survey number. For example, the Beckley Jackson House is number 4 in the sequential numbering of properties in the county and is identified as HK-4.

Because the archaeological resources of Hopkins County have not been comprehensively surveyed, none is included in this nomination.

The majority of historic architecture remaining in Hopkins County was constructed after the Civil War during the boom years of the coal industry. Virtually all of the original brick structures on the public square in Madisonville were replaced by more modern two and three-story brick commercial buildings along Main Street and Center Street by the early 1900s. Reflecting the growing wealth of the city, Madisonville residents built fine homes in the Italianate, Second Empire and Queen Anne styles into the early 20th century. The communities of Earlington and Dawson Springs also witnessed the construction of fine commercial buildings and residences. In the smaller communities and rural areas of the county many fine frame and brick homes were also constructed in high style designs of the period.

Most historic structures which survive in Hopkins County are frame buildings constructed between 1870 and 1910. Most of these fit into several categories of building plans and forms and are generally unpretentious interpretations of the styles of the period. These fall into four general categories:

- Tee plan or ell plan designs: These residences are distinguished by a projecting gabled bay on the main facade of the house. This house type is generally one-story in height, of frame construction and with milled decoration on the porch or eaves.
- Central passage plan designs: This house type is often a simple rectangular form of three to five bays with the main entrance in the central bay. These residences often have a one-story rear ell or wing containing the kitchen and dining area. They also often have milled decoration at the eaves and porch.
- Hipped or pyramidal roof forms: These house forms are generally one-story residences built in rectangular floor plans. From the corners of the house the roof line extends to form hipped or pyramidal roof forms.

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Most of these residences have the main entrance in the central bay with decoration limited to the eaves and porch.

- Cumberland designs: The Cumberland house form is distinguished by its two doors on the main facade. These doors lead into separate rooms which often share a central chimney. These homes are usually of four bays with the two central bays containing the entrances. Decoration of these house forms is usually limited to milled porch posts and eave trim.

These vernacular house types were built in both the rural areas and communities of the county and make up the great majority of residential architecture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of the residences built in the coal towns of Saint Charles, Morton's Gap and Nortonville were constructed by the coal companies using these designs. A few other house types such as gable front or homestead plans and shotgun designs were also constructed. These types of residences are typical of folk or vernacular house forms constructed throughout Kentucky during this period. The availability of sawn lumber, balloon frame construction and other technological advances contributed to the proliferation of these house forms.

In addition to vernacular residential forms, many vernacular commercial buildings were erected in these years. Most shared common characteristics such as similar storefront designs with frame or brick bulkheads, cast iron columns or brick piers and large display windows and transoms. Upper facades often contained segmental arched or rectangular one-over-one sash windows and corbelled brick or sheet metal decoration over the windows and along the roofline. Many commercial buildings from this period remain extant and comprise blocks in the downtown areas of Madisonville, Dawson Springs and Hanson.

From 1900 until 1940, most of the county's notable residential architecture was built in Madisonville. Houses reflecting the Colonial Revival, Bungalow and English Tudor styles were built throughout the city. Most of these homes were built on small lots creating a dense and compact streetscape. There are no examples of the Art Deco or International style in the residential areas of Madisonville but some commercial buildings have Art Deco inspired detailing. After 1940, the architecture of the county followed established national trends with many new subdivisions and tract housing built outside of Madisonville, Dawson Springs and Earlington.

From this analysis, properties have been grouped under four historic contexts that conform with the four major themes that best define the county and its properties: (1) the settlement and development of Hopkins County between 1807 and 1870; (2) coal mining and rural Hopkins County from 1870 to 1935; (3) Community Development in Hopkins County, 1870-1935; and (4) Growth and Development of Madisonville from 1870 to 1935.

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