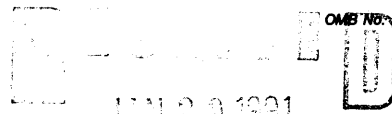


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Dyersburg Courthouse Square Historic District  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number roughly bounded by Church, Main, Cedar & Court Sts. N/A not for publication  
city, town Dyersburg N/A vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Dyer code 045 zip code 38204

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>46</u>	<u>7</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district		<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u>      </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>      </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>46</u>	<u>7</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Herbert L. Sawyer 1/25/91  
Signature of certifying official Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. **Entered in the National Register**  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Melora Byers 2/28/91  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

GOVERNMENT: Courthouse

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Commercial Vernacular

Classical Revival

OTHER: Commercial, Italianate Influence

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE, BRICK, CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT, METAL

other WOOD, cast iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dyersburg Courthouse Square Historic District in Dyersburg, Dyer County, Tennessee, consists of the Dyer County Courthouse; the buildings surrounding the courthouse on Court Street, Mill Street, Market Street, and Main Street; as well as the two hundred block and the even-numbered side of the three hundred block of West Court Street, up to and including the former Greyhound Bus Depot; and a portion of the two hundred block of South Mill Avenue.

The district makes up the core of the central business area of Dyersburg and includes retail stores, financial institutions, and governmental offices around the courthouse square. Although several storefronts have been altered, the buildings in the district retain many of their original architectural features. The district also contains its original street configuration and, judging from existing historic photographs at the McIver's Grant Public Library and Sanborn insurance maps, its original streetscape.

The majority of the buildings within the district are two-part commercial blocks and enframed window walls as defined by Richard Longstreth in The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture, (Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1987). Most of the buildings are vernacular adaptations found in the late Victorian period and are best exemplified by the rounded arch windows evident on the second story facades of many of the buildings. Italianate detailing continues with the predominant use of raised brick eyebrow moldings over the second story windows, a pattern which is repeated throughout the district. Another feature common to the buildings is the existence of a brick belt course forming the cornice with stepped brick and dentil detailing.

The Dyer County Courthouse, constructed in 1911, occupies the central position within the district and the retail-oriented square. The courthouse is an imposing presence: a three-story brick structure surmounted by a white dome on a raised brick drum; the dome contains a clock facing each of the four directions. Additionally, the courthouse is situated in a "Shelbyville Square" configuration, identical to the prototype courthouse square plan in Shelbyville, Tennessee, as detailed and analyzed in Edward T. Price's essay, "The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat," (Geographical Review, 1968). Here, as in

See continuation sheet

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Shelbyville, the courthouse dominates the square, which is framed on all four sides by the principal business streets, which intersect at the corners of the courthouse square. This configuration is very common in the upper South and Midwest, but had its genesis in Tennessee. The Dyersburg Square is an excellent example of this configuration, having all four sides of the square lined with business and retail houses.

The buildings surrounding the courthouse are perhaps the most ornate in the entire district. A uniformity of elevation is maintained on all four sides of the square with the exception of the First Citizens National Bank on the northwest corner, which was constructed in 1924. On the square, the buildings tend to be either three-story or two-story buildings which have been vertically extended to create uniform height. Almost all of the businesses on the square occupy the first floors of the buildings, while the second and third floors are currently vacant. In most buildings, the windows on the upper stories have been covered either by boards or metal louvers. On the southwest corner of the square, the buildings on the south side of Market Street contain angled doorways that cut the corner of the square. Very few of the buildings in the district contain any permanent signage or designation of the historic name or year of construction.

A significant number of the buildings in the district have sheet metal awnings that cover sidewalk entrances. Many of the buildings can be characterized as enframed window wall structures, reflecting the traditional retail use of the buildings. In some cases, the central section of the window wall is deeply recessed providing glass enclosed display areas on either side of the entrance door.

One property in the district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Bank of Dyersburg building (NR 6/16/83). Located at 100 South Main Street, the building dates from 1885 and it originally housed the Bank of Dyersburg. Today, offices occupy a portion of the building, but the front space is a restaurant. The building was renovated in 1983 and retains its original integrity.

Within the district, there are forty-six (46) contributing buildings (noted "C" in the inventory) and seven (7) non-contributing buildings (noted "NC" in the inventory). The majority of the buildings within the district were built between 1880 and 1925 and reflect different variations and gradations of Victorian and Classical design. However, one fine example of Art Deco architecture from the 1930s exists: the former Greyhound Bus Station on

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the corner of West Court and North Church streets. The current name of the business is included in parentheses in the nomination; historic names, if known, appear first.

In this nomination, the term "commercial vernacular" is used as a last resort to identify property types in a commercial setting that are either devoid of stylistic architectural elements that can be associated with a recognized architectural style, or that do not fit into the building type configuration first developed by Richard Longstreth (first in a Vernacular Architecture Forum paper, later revised as an article in Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, II, and finally as a field guide for the National Trust in The Buildings of Main Street). The term refers to buildings that were clearly constructed for commercial use, but that fit into no other recognized scheme for identifying styles or building types for commercial architecture.

INVENTORY

1. Dyer County Courthouse. 1911. Three-story brick Classical Revival-influenced structure designed by Asa Biggs. Five-bay central block with one-bay wing on east and west sides. North and south facades are colonnaded with four plain columns with Ionic capitals. Windows are double-paned metal with transoms. Brick is in common bond pattern with decorative courses around each window and door. White belt course from roofline of building, topped with brick drum and round white dome with clock face in each direction. Cornices of the building feature three diamond-shaped white stones at the top of corner pilasters and dentils in the cornice line. (C)

## CEDAR STREET

2. 106 West Cedar Street. (Family Inn Cafe) ca. 1890. Occupies west side of 219 South Main Street. Two-story common bond brick building with first story painted over in commercial advertisements. Originally a four-bay building side, but all windows, save the easternmost, were bricked over at an uncertain date and replaced with rectangular nine-light windows. Sills and arched brick tops of former windows remain. First floor windows have been bricked in; only metal door remains. Star braces on graduated roofline. Flat roof. (C)

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3. 110 West Cedar Street. (MonArk Company) ca. 1920. One-story rectangular-shaped brick building with stepped roofline. Window on west side was bricked in at an unknown date from original garage door opening. Two shingled window awnings on two west windows of building. Each bay contains rounded top decorated with two-layer brick dentil moulding. (C)

## CHURCH STREET

4. 100-108 North Church Avenue. (Cozy Kitchen Restaurant and Criswell's Barber Shop) ca. 1940. One-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. Flat roof. Restaurant has glass door with sidelight to the left. One square window encased in metal is to the right of the door. Sheet metal awning. Barber shop has a glass door and two square windows encased in metal. Sheet metal awning. (C)

## COURT STREET

5. 100 West Court Street. (Office of William T. Jordan, Jr., Attorney at Law) ca. 1900. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with a brick foundation and enframed window wall. Neo-Classical influence. Sheet metal awning has been added above the smooth stone front facade on the first floor. The upper story retains its original brick and brick pilasters with stone capitals. Ashlar lintel and sill. Seven-bay windows; all have been covered with cedar shake shingles. Ornamental stone cornice. This building housed a drug and paint store in the early 1890s, and was later the Dyersburg State Bank. (C)
6. 104 West Court Street. (Anna Marie) ca. 1850. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with a brick foundation. Original windows and door have been replaced with modern plate glass display windows and glass/aluminum doors, one at the center and one to the left side. An asphalt-covered awning has been added to the front facade. The upper story has three window bays with radiating voussoir and keystones. Ornamental cornice with dentil moulding. In 1914, this was part of the drug and paint store. Sanborn map of 1891 designates this a "very old building." (C)

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7. 106 West Court Street. (Frames, Etc.) ca. 1850. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with a brick foundation. Upper one-third of building was updated in the 1930s with Art Deco detailing. Original doors have been replaced with modern plated glass display windows and a glass/aluminum door. Modern side door to the left of main entrance has also been added. Transom windows with ornamental brackets on each end. Upper story has three window bays. Ashlar lintel and sill. Ornamental tile design above windows. In the first decades of the twentieth century served as a drug store and a cotton company office. Sanborn map of 1891 designates this a "very old building." (C)
8. 108 West Court Street. ca. 1850. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with a brick foundation. Similar to 104 West Court Street. Original windows and door have been replaced with modern plate glass display windows and glass/aluminum door. A cloth awning has been added to the front facade. The upper story has three window bays, each boarded over. Rounded arch windows with radiating voussoirs keystones. Ornamental cornice with dentil moulding. This building housed a grocery store in the early 1900s and later a furniture store. Sanborn map of 1891 designates this a "very old building." (C)
9. 110 West Court Street. McElroy Building (Law office of Douglas W. Wilkerson and J. Steven Stafford) ca. 1890. Three-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with a brick foundation. Asphalt flat roof. Facade on first floor has three bays, two doors, and center window and is covered with aluminum siding. A cloth awning has been added to the front facade. Upper two stories feature three bays with rounded arch windows. Both center windows have been covered with aluminum siding. A cloth awning has been added to the front facade. Upper two stories feature three bays with rounded arch windows. Both center windows have been covered with brick. The other windows have been filled in with brick at the top only, where the windows arch. All windows on the upper stories have decorative brick eyebrow mouldings showing Italianate influence. Brick string courses are featured above each row of windows. The cornice features three rectangular recesses and a chevron ornamental brick moulding. This building is known as the McElroy Building and probably housed the McElroy's Five and Dime which eventually moved to 214 South Mill Street. (C)

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10. 112 West Court Street. (Taylor's Outlet Ladies' Wear) ca. 1890. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with a brick foundation. Asphalt flat roof. Original windows and door have been replaced with modern plate glass display windows and glass/aluminum door. The upper story front facade has three window bays, each boarded over. round arched windows with decorative brick eyebrow mouldings show Italianate influence. A brick string course separates the windows from the cornice which features six rectangular recesses below a chevron ornamental brick moulding capped with dentils. This was a drug store in 1914 and the location of Dreifus Jewelry in 1952. By the 1960s, it was used as a bank and office building, housing the Chamber of Commerce in 1961. (C)
11. 114 West Court Street. Lewis Jewelers. ca. 1955. Modern two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with enframed window wall. Front facade is marble and granite. Building was gutted and rebuilt in the mid 1950s. (NC)
12. 116 West Court Street. (Law office of John Palmer) ca. 1970. Modern Colonial Revival two-story brick building. Asphalt gable roof with three gable roof dormers. Three-bay front facade with modern bay windows on either side of center glass door. (NC)
13. 120 West Court Street. (Catherine's Ladies' Wear) ca. 1920. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block building with a brick foundation. Asphalt flat roof. Original windows and door have been replaced with modern plate glass display windows and glass/aluminum door. The upper story front facade is a plain concrete parapet wall with no window openings. Building was originally used as a movie theater. Storefront brickwork has undergone extensive alterations. (NC)
14. 200 West Court Street. (First Citizens National Bank) ca. 1924. Six-story three-part Classical Revival adaptation vertical block with a one-story addition on the rear, ca. 1988. The original structure's first floor is stone and the remainder of the structure is brick. Recessed Corinthian capitals between the fourth floor windows. Ornamental "circle in square" motifs in the string course above the sixth floor windows. The later addition is of compatible light red brick and has windows identical to the first floor windows on the original building. (C)

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15. 204 West Court Street. First Citizens National Bank, computer center ca. 1988. Three-story rectangular-shaped commercial block. First two floors are stone and third is brick with glass brick encasing the west side of the facade. (NC)
16. 209 West Court Street. ca. 1920. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. On the first floor two windows face the street and one window is angled toward the single-leaf glass door. A transom of glass brick runs the length of the bays and a flat sheet metal awning is underneath the transom. Two square bays on the second floor are covered with weatherboard. Roofline is stepped. Roof is flat. (C)
17. 210 West Court Street. (General Appliance and Furniture, warehouse) ca. 1920. Two-story rectangular-shaped building. Four bays on the first floor with a door added to the left of original front door. Three square bays on the second floor have been covered with weatherboard. Dentil moulding on the cornice. Flat asphalt roof. A flat sheet metal awning is located over the first floor. (C)
18. 211-213 West Court Street. (General Appliance and Furniture, showroom). ca. 1900. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. Metal siding on first floor. Entrance is off-center to the right and has two large windows facing north and two windows angled toward a glass door with a frame surround. A vertical rectangular bay divides two pairs of square bays on the second floor. All are covered with weatherboard. Stepped parapet, flat roof. (C)
19. 212 West Court Street. (General Appliance and Furniture, warehouse) ca. 1920. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building covered with metal siding on the first floor. A flat sheet metal overhang is located over the four bays and double-leaf glass doors on first floor. Two rectangular and one square bay on the second floor have been covered with weatherboard. Dentil moulding on the cornice. Flat asphalt roof. (C)
20. 214 West Court Street. (Law office of Thomas Weakley) ca. 1920. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. The panelled wood door is located between two square bays and the remainder of the first floor facade is covered with weatherboard siding. Flat sheet metal overhang is located over the first floor. Two square bays on second floor have been covered with weatherboard. (C)



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21. 215-217 West Court Street. (General Appliance and Furniture, showroom) ca. 1900. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. Metal siding on first floor. Two rectangular display windows with exposed brick underneath each. Four second floor rectangular bays placed vertically are covered in weatherboard and have arched lintels. Two rows of dentil moulding with a row of recessed rectangular motifs in between on cornice. (C)
22. 216 West Court Street. (Computer Services) ca. 1920. One-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. A single-leaf glass door to the right of two rectangular bays on the south facade. West facade faces North Church Street and has a single-leaf glass door to the left of two rectangular bays. All bays have a drip lintel over them. Flat asphalt roof. (C)
23. 219 West Court Street. (General Appliance and Furniture, showroom) ca. 1900. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick enframed window wall commercial building. Metal siding on first floor. Four second floor bays are rectangular, placed vertically, and covered with weatherboard. Arched lintels. Two rows of dentil moulding with a row of recessed rectangular motifs in between. Flat roof. (C)
24. 304 West Court Street. Greyhound Bus Station (Domino's Pizza) ca. 1938. Art Deco. One-story brick building with a stone foundation. Facade is dominated by a vertical spire on a series of gradually stacked horizontal platforms over a double-leaf glass door. The spire, doors, and a pair of triple disk motif elements are extended in brick from the remainder of the building. Each side of the building is flanked with a flat sheet metal awning. Parking lot once served as the driveway for busses, and thus connects the property with the district. (C)

## MAIN STREET

25. 100 South Main Street. Bank of Dyersburg. ca. 1885. (NR 6/16/83) Original building is a two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with a brick foundation. Built by Parr Nolen & Company. Three-story addition at rear of building, ca. 1890. Mansard seamed metal roof on original building. Flat asphalt roof on addition. Front facade features four bays with three plate glass display windows and panelled aprons, and a double-leaf door positioned

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at an angle on the corner of the building. Individual cloth awnings hand over each window on the first floor facade, with a transom above. Heavy moulding with dentils separate the first floor from the upper story. Four bays across front facade of upper story feature double one-over-one sash windows. Window bays feature ornamental balustrade below windows and a sunburst design between windows and arched transom. Sunrise detail and heavy bracketing under mansard roof. Building is characterized by Second Empire and Italianate features. Completely renovated in 1983. (C)

26. 102 South Main Street. (Dyer Drugs) ca. 1886. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with brick foundation. Asphalt flat roof. Original brick facade has been covered with stucco; original windows and doors replaced with modern plate glass windows and glass/aluminum double doors. Major alterations. This building has long housed a drug store, with the exception of the 1950s, when the Ritz Theater was located here. (NC)
27. 104 South Main Street. Forked Deer Hardware Company, ca. 1886. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with brick foundation. Asphalt flat roof. Decorative mosaic tile entrance. Original first floor facade has been replaced with plate glass display windows and glass/aluminum double doors. Stained glass transom features store name. Upper story facade contains three window bays, all of which have been covered with weatherboard. Segmented brick arches over the windows, with continuous drip moulding course across facade show Italianate influence. (This facade continued across front of 102 South Main before it was covered with stucco.) Forked Deer Hardware Company, which was established in 1888, is the oldest continuing business on the square according to owner. (C)
28. 106 South Main Street. (Dyersburg Optical Dispensary) ca. 1896. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with brick foundation. Asphalt flat roof. Original first floor facade replaced with two plate glass windows and center glass/aluminum doors and transom. Sheet metal awning. Upper story features three window bays, which have been covered with weatherboard, and are separated by brick pilasters. Segmented brick arches above each window show Italianate influence. This building was a grocery store and meat shop in the early twentieth century; later a cafe according to the owner. (C)

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29. 108 South Main Street. (The Shopper's Guide) ca. 1896. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block brick building with brick foundation. Asphalt flat roof. Original first floor facade replaced with two plate glass display windows and glass/aluminum center door. Cloth awning has been added to facade. Upper story features two window bays, covered with weatherboard, and separated by brick pilasters. Segmented brick arches above each window show Italianate influence. This building was a hardware store early in this century; later a jewelry and appliance store. (C)
30. 110-112 South Main Street. (Chequers Restaurant and USA Financial Services) ca. 1880. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building exhibiting Italianate influence. Stone foundation. USA Financial Services has an enframed window wall with four bays and a single leaf glass door with a transom. The entryway floor is covered in small square tiles. Chequers has an enframed window wall and a single leaf glass door encased in unfinished plywood. A cloth awning is located over the first floor. A second floor has five bays covered with weatherboard and stone label lintels with wooden sills. Flat roofline above a panel of moulded bricks. 110 South Main (Chequers) has been a recreation hall and cafe for many years. 112 South Main (USA Financial Services) began as a clothing and shoe store; it was once known as the White Way Barber Shop and Beauty School. (C)
31. 114 South Main Street. (Joe Hendren Bonding Company) ca. 1880. Two-story brick enframed window wall commercial building with Art Deco influence. A single leaf glass door with a transom is recessed and off-center to the left. Stone foundation is covered with tile which is underneath the two display windows. The second floor has three one-over-one sash windows with stone lintels. The far right bay has a small iron porch which was formerly a fire escape landing. A chain link design motif appears over the bays and under the stepped roofline. Flat roof. In the beginning of this century, this building housed the Lyric Theater. Later it was a furniture store. (C)
32. 116 South Main Street. (Law Offices of Nathan J. Dearing and Marianna Williams) ca. 1880. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. Weatherboard siding on first floor. Five bays on first floor with a single leaf glass door. New cloth awning. Three bays on second floor have been covered with sheet metal. Flat roof. This building housed a "Racket Store" in the early 1900s; a men's store in the early 1960s. (C)

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33. 118 South Main Street. (Alford Printing Company) ca. 1880. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial building with new brick on first floor. Two bricked-in arched openings on first floor. Second floor is original brick. Three arched bays on second floor have recessed radiating lintels and are covered with weatherboard. Moulded panels in brick at cornice are stepped. A ca. 1980 addition on the corner of Main and Market streets is one story with three arched openings fronting glass display windows and a single leaf glass door. This building originally housed a dry goods store; later it was a department store and a furniture store. The southern half of this property, where the 1980s addition is built, burned in the 1960s, major alterations. (NC)
34. 200 South Main Street. (Chandler's Family Hair Care) ca. 1885. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick and cast iron commercial building. Vernacular with Romanesque and Eastlake detailing. First floor modified with two display windows and an entrance on the south facade. Second story contains three bays with stone eyebrow mouldings over windows and brick vents. Roofline accentuated by decorative white belt course containing dentil moulding, triangles, and miniature pilasters. Above is understated battlement roof detailed with white raised crosses on the pilasters separating the bays below. Flat roof. (C)

## MARKET STREET

35. 101-103 West Market Street. (Dyer County Office Building) ca. 1920. Two-story rectangular-shaped six bay brick building with decorative brick veneer front on first floor in modern commercial Colonial Revival style which has significantly altered the facade. This building was previously used as retail space, being part of the Black & White Store that became Shainberg's Department Store in the late 1950s. Major alterations. (NC)
36. 107 West Market Street. (Acred's Shoeland) ca. 1906. Three-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building six bays wide. First floor storefront has been modified extensively. Each bay upstairs has been covered with weatherboard. Each opening has rounded arches with two-layer brick moulding topped with raised brick eyebrow moulding showing Italianate influence. Third story eyebrow mouldings are connected with raised brick string course. roofline is accentuated by

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raised brick cornices. Belt course of two layers of brick runs between second and third stories. Flat roof. This building has an early history as a bakery; later it was part of the Black & White Store which became Shainberg's Department Store in the late 1950s. (C)

37. 111 West Market Street. (Coast to Coast Store) ca. 1906. Three-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building three bays wide. First floor is enframed window wall with display windows angled on either side of the front door. Second and third story bays have been covered with weatherboard. Each bay has a stone sill and decorative dentil moulding above it. Segmented brick pilasters separate the bays. Roofline is accentuated with raised brick cornice dentils and decorative single central battlement. Flat roof. This building housed a furniture and paint store in the early twentieth century; later it was used as a hardware store, which it remains today. (C)
38. 113-115 West Market Street. (Ben Franklin Store/Ivanhoe Cards) ca. 1906. Three-story nine-bay rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. First floor storefronts modified extensively. Second story contains rectangular windows covered with weatherboard and framed top to bottom with stone surrounds. Decorative brick dentil belt course runs between second and third stories. Third story windows are round-topped with decorative brick eyebrow mouldings in raised dentil pattern connected by raised string course running width of the building. Between each bay is a recessed rectangle. Roofline accentuated by raised brick dentil course. Flat roof. This building has always housed retail stores from dry goods and clothing to furniture. (C)
39. 117 West Market Street. (Golden Circle Gymnastics) ca. 1906. Three-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building three bays wide. Second story windows are covered with weatherboard and with rounded arch tops with three-part keystones. Raised brick dentil belt course at roofline. Flat roof. This building was originally a grocery, later it was part of Salenfriend's Department Store along with 119 West Market Street. (C)
40. 119 West Market Street. (Riley's Wholesale) ca. 1895. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. Three bays on the second floor have been covered with weatherboard and have three-part keystone mouldings identical to the ones on the second floor of 117 Market Street. Roofline was a wider cornice than 117, with raised

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brick dentils. This building housed a jewelry and book store in the early part of the twentieth century; by mid-century it was a part of Salenfriend's Department Store along with 117 West Market Street. (C)

41. 121 West Market Street. (Manner's) ca. 1899. Two-story brick rectangular-shaped commercial building with cut-away angled entrance on northwest corner. Second story windows are covered with louvers. Second story is three bays wide with one bay on the angle. Windows are recessed in larger bays with stepped top accentuated by corner dentils of two stretcher bricks and three dentils of similar construction across stepped center of window openings. Vents above all the bays. Dentil belt course at roofline. Flat roof. This building was a bank in 1914. (C)
42. 211 West Market Street. (Credit Bureau/Beltone Hearing Aids) ca. 1929. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. Asphalt flat roof. Four original window openings on second floor with stone lintels and sills. Original glass replaced with either modern sash or weatherboard. Possible original entrance with plate glass display windows and French wood-and-glass doors. (C)

## MILL AVENUE

43. 101 South Mill Avenue. City Drug Company. ca. 1886. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. Flat asphalt roof. Decorative brick cornice and two horizontal bands. Front facade retains original segmented arch window openings, but have been covered with weatherboard. Storefront display window with "City Drug Co." spelled in glazed tiles beneath window (ca. 1935) Entrance flanked by a pair of masonry Tuscan columns which indicates a Neo-Classical influence. A cloth awning has been added to the front facade. This building has housed a drug store since the early 1900s. (C)
44. 103 South Mill Avenue. (Galleria Furniture and Accessories) ca. 1886. The present business occupies three adjoining buildings from approximately 103 to 109 South Mill Avenue. These buildings all housed the Woolworth's Store in the 1950s and 1960s. The northernmost building is a two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. Flat asphalt roof. Original three-pair window openings are double-hung sash. Stuccoed brick facade above windows. Original storefront

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replaced with modern glass display windows and door. A cloth awning has been added to front facade. A barber shop was located were at one time. (C)

45. 103 South Mill Avenue (Galleria Furniture and Accessories, middle building) ca. 1891. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial building. Italianate influence. Brick, with stuccoed facade. Flat asphalt roof. Six original segmented arch windows in second floor with a running wood hood moulding. Three round arched windows with cast iron grille work beneath cornice. The original storefront has been replaced with glass display windows and doors. A cloth awning has been added to the front facade. This building housed a cobbler's shop in the early 1900s. (C)
46. 103 South Mill Avenue (Galleria Furniture and Accessories, south building) ca. 1891. Two-story vernacular Italianate brick commercial building. Flat asphalt roof. Decorative brick cornice and frieze. Four original segmented arch windows on second floor have been covered with weatherboard. Two rounded arch windows with cast iron grille work beneath cornice. The original storefront has been replaced with modern display windows and door. A cloth awning has been added to the front facade. This building housed the Pastime Theater in the early 1900s. (C)
47. 111 South Mill Avenue. (McClure Associates Surveyors) ca. 1891. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. Flat asphalt roof with overhanging eave. Deep, bracketed cornice with dentil moulding. Three original window openings with sash on second floor. Elaborate decorative window surrounds. Modern glass display windows and door. Two Corinthian pilasters at each corner of the building show Neo-Classical influence. New cloth awning on front facade. This building housed a dry goods store in the early 1900s. (C)
48. 113 South Mill Avenue. (The Vision Center) ca. 1891. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building with Neo-Classical influence. Flat asphalt roof. Decorative brick cornice with diamond-point metal roof cresting. Three original bays on second floor with decorative brick lintels. Original glass including stained glass in a sunburst pattern in center window. Original storefront replaced with display windows and door. A six-panel wood door is located at the north corner of the front facade. A cloth awning has been added to

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Historic District

facade. This building housed a dry goods and clothing store in the early 1900s; in 1960s it housed the offices of a cotton compress company and a cotton buyer. (C)

49. 115-117 South Mill Avenue. (Law office of Charles M. Agee, Jr. at 115 and the Recorder's Office at 117) ca. 1900. Two-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building. Flat asphalt roof. Decorative brick cornice. Six original segmented arch window openings with brick hoods on second floor show Italiante influence. Most of the original glass replaced with plywood or later sash. Original storefront at 115 replaced with board and batten, rough-sawn stained lumber, ca. 1980. Original front on 117 replaced with display windows and a door with metal base. Cloth awnings on both facades. (C)
50. 119 South Mill Avenue. Dyersburg City Hall. ca. 1937. Two-story building with Classical detailing and vault facade. Stucco facade scored in ashlar pattern. Flat asphalt roof. Recessed entrance with round arch vault flanked with Ionic Tuscan columns and Doric pilasters show Classical REVival influence. Smooth, undecorated entablature. Bas-relief masonry horizontal decoration below entablature. Glass doors and vertical window replaced original entrance. South facade is cream-colored brick with four rounded arch windows identical to the entrance vault. Cloth awnings on front entrance and over four bays. (C)
51. 201 South Mill Avenue. Hayes Building (Uncle Bud's Place) ca. 1895. Two-story rectangular-shaped commercial block extending west on Market Street. Front facade on Mill Street is brick at street level with wood around windows. Remainder of building is stucco over brick. Corner of building at intersecting streets is angled to cutaway corner. Flat roof. (C)
52. 213 South Mill Avenue. (City Cab) ca. 1940. One-story cement block building set back from street facing an alley. Scalloped-edged wooden awning surrounds building. Flat roof. (C)
53. 217 South Mill Avenue. (Ketchum's Furniture) ca. 1930. One-story rectangular-shaped brick commercial building with graduated roofline as building rises Mill Street hill to the north. Each section of building is in window wall configuration with recessed central doorway. Glass front on north side of building is larger than on south side, but in identical configuration. Dovetailed brick work on angles of entrance on south side of building. Flat roof. (C)



**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE  
GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1850 - 1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Biggs, Asa, contractor and other unknown

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

The Dyersburg Courthouse Square Historic District is nominated under criteria A and C for its local significance in the development of commerce, politics/government, and architecture from circa 1850 to 1940. The State of Tennessee established Dyer County on October 16, 1803. The county was named in honor of Col. Robert H. Dyer. John McIver and Joel H. Dyer donated sixty acres of land as the townsite of Dyersburg. Joel Dyer surveyed the land in July 1825, laying off eighty-six town lots bounded on the north by McGaughey Street, on the west by Clark Avenue, on the east by J. M. Collins' shop and on the south by the North Forked Deer River. The town of Dyersburg incorporated on January 10, 1850.

McIver's Bluff, the present Dyersburg, was selected as the county seat by the locating commission. Court was held in Mr. John Warren's home until 1826 when it met in a log house in Dyersburg. A two-story log courthouse was erected on the public square in 1827, replaced by a one-story frame building in 1836. The frame building was followed by a two-story brick building in 1850 which was destroyed by fire in 1864. The walls remained intact and, in 1867, the courthouse was rebuilt and used until 1911, when the present courthouse, erected by Asa Biggs, became the focal point of the square.

The early growth of Dyersburg was based on the town's river location and abundance of natural resources. Situated at the head of steamboat navigation on the Forked Deer River, Dyersburg became known as a river town. The town grew steadily in size and influence, as the county seat, and center of trade, commerce, and culture. The first steamboat, the "Grey Eagle," appeared on the river in 1836. The steamboat, "Alf Stevens" traveled between Dyersburg and St. Louis in 1879 shipping lumber for the A. M. Stevens Lumber Company of Dyersburg. By 1880, four steamboats shipped products between Dyersburg, St. Louis and Memphis. The Dyersburg share occupied the ground from the North Fork bridge to the present site of the Dyersburg Machine Works. All goods were shipped to Dyersburg by river until the introduction of the railroad in 1883. Popularity of the river

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property approx. 11 acres

UTM References

A 

1	6
---	---

2	8	4	8	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	9	0	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	6
---	---

2	8	5	8	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	8	9	0	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B 

1	6
---	---

2	8	5	1	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	9	0	0	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

D 

1	6
---	---

2	8	4	8	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	8	9	8	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Dyersburg, Tennessee 420SW

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Dyersburg Courthouse Square Historic District include the courthouse and surrounding commercial properties that form the core of the business district. The boundaries include sufficient contributing properties to reflect the architectural and historical significance of the Courthouse Square Historic District.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jennifer Martin, Jane Laub, Tirri Parker, Steve Saowsky, students  
organization Center for Historic Preservation date January 1991  
street & number Middle Tennessee State University telephone (615) 898-2947  
city or town Murfreesboro state Tennessee zip code 37132

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Historic District

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routes was largely due to the difficult overland travel by horse or by buggy. The North Forked Deer River was navigable by small steamboats as high up as Dyersburg for about nine months in the year. Settlers and supplies came in as lumber and logs went out by river.

Dyersburg is located in a fertile valley accessible to the surrounding thousands of acres of fine forests of merchantable timbers. The river streams were largely utilized for floating lumber and saw-logs at all seasons. The A. M. Stevens sawmill was erected in 1880; Stevens' planing mill was established in 1885. The Nichols & Co. Wooden Bowl Factory was established in 1881.

The fertile soil in West Tennessee made the area around Dyersburg rich farming country. The earliest principal crops in this area were corn and tobacco. However, both these crops were replaced by cotton, which became the most predominant and profitable agricultural product in the region due to the combination of good soil, a warm climate and slave labor. By 1879, West Tennessee ginned 84% of all cotton ginned in Tennessee. Dyersburg's location at the head of navigation on the Forked Deer River made the town a busy center of commerce and industry for the cotton economy. Cotton was brought into the town square around the courthouse on wagons, where cotton buyers would write their price on a piece of paper. The farmer would then take this paper to the gin which would weigh the cotton and give the farmer the cotton buyer's price per pound. Cottonseed, second in importance only to lint cotton among the case crops of the Dyersburg Oil Company, was purchased chiefly from farmers and ginners within fifty miles of the city. The cottonseed oil plant was established in 1884 and remains a major industry in Dyersburg, having several expansions in its facilities over the years.

In Dyersburg, there were very few direct effects of the Civil War, with the exception of improvements in transportation to Dyer County. Roads were improved to provide supplies to the Confederacy and these improvements continued into the 1870s, when the state began to participate in road construction. The railroad came to Dyer County in 1883, when the Newport News and Mississippi Valley Railroad brought the first train to Dyersburg in 1884. The N.N. & M.V. Railroad ran from Memphis to Louisville and Memphis to Paducah through Dyersburg. The railroad provided additional shipping services to and from Dyersburg, making the city an important rail shipping point, in addition to its river facilities. Much of the town's existing built environment, as detailed in the district's inventory, dates from the period of railroad predominance in Dyer County from the early 1880s to 1940.

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Section number 8 Page 3 Dyersburg Courthouse Square  
Historic District

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The Bank of Dyersburg was chartered in 1879 and opened for business in 1880. Further evidence of the growing commercial importance of the city during this period is the 1882 paving of the public square, a ban against frame buildings on the square and the completion of the railroad line to the city. The strength of the municipal government also grew so that in 1885, the original charter was almost completely amended. In 1887, the Goodspeed History reported that Dyersburg, the county seat and principal town of the county, had upwards of 2,000 inhabitants and was considered one of the most prosperous little cities in West Tennessee, having a number of manufacturing houses and a large mercantile business.

The new rail connection continued to spur prosperity for the rest of the century. By 1891, the State Gazette could justifiably boast that Dyersburg was the commercial, manufacturing and railroad emporium of a rich and extensive area. Dyersburg then had an opera house, four hotels, four brick churches, a machine shop, three meat markets, two marble yards, one brickyard, two planing mills, a flour mill, twelve dry goods stores, a wooden bowl factory, fourteen family grocery stores, five stave and heading factories, three millinery stores, two funeral undertakers, one hardware store, two farm implement houses, a cotton seed oil mill and three drug stores. The State Gazette further reported that Dyersburg was well supplied in 1891 with blacksmith shops, wagon shops, eating houses, feed and grain dealers, lawyers, doctors, dentists, insurance agents, confectioners, bookstores and everything else that goes into making up a diverse, prosperous town.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Dyersburg thrived as a center of commerce, manufacturing and transportation. Railroad traffic largely spurred this boom as the town became a regional hub for the powerful Illinois Central Railroad and the Gulf, Mobile and Northern Railroad. Economic growth continued for Dyersburg into the twentieth century. The automobile was introduced in Dyersburg in 1902 and city street paving began in 1920. By a 1916 account of the Dyersburg area, more businesses originated there than in any city in West Tennessee except Memphis. By 1916, the city's population had grown to more than 5,000. Dyersburg was surrounded by fine farming lands and boasted several cotton mill industries, compress companies, a brick and tile company, milling and grain companies, lumber companies and a grocery company.

1929 witnessed the construction of the Dyersburg Cotton Products, Inc. plant which, within a decade prospered as the largest industrial institution in Dyersburg. The plant consumed about 6,000,000 pounds of

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Section number 8 Page 4 Dyersburg Courthouse Square  
Historic District

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cotton each year from Dyer County farmers, keeping a large part of the population of Dyer County steadily employed. The plant's importance to the local economy is evident by the donation of the moving expenses of the plant's machinery by local citizens. The State Gazette reported that promoters of the enterprise were particularly attracted to Dyersburg because of its ideal location in the northern part of the cotton belt and in striking distance of the great midwestern trade area, therefore providing the company with the double advantage of ready access to its raw materials and close proximity to the large markets for its products.

The Great Depression of the 1930s proved difficult for Dyersburg and the surrounding area. However, the Cotton Products, Inc. plant remained open, providing employment during the bleak years. By the close of the Depression, Dyersburg benefitted from modern transportation improvements, including the construction of US Highway 51 through the downtown business district. The popularity of automobile travel and the improved highway system spurred construction of the city's Greyhound Bus Terminal and maintained Dyersburg's important role as a regional transportation center.

Between 1880 and 1940 Dyersburg experienced progress and growth and established itself as a town of present and future stability and prosperity. Its advantageous river location and its wealth of natural resources sustained the economic growth of the community and became the foundation for the city of Dyersburg to build upon. Always active as a county seat, a cultural and religious center and the hub of trade, commerce and retail activity for surrounding communities, the county and the region, the Dyersburg Courthouse Square Historic District remains a vital and important business center today. Anchored by the county courthouse and filled with an array of locally significant commercial architecture, Dyersburg's Courthouse Square Historic District is physical evidence that documents both the development and maintenance of prosperity in the center of northwest Tennessee's most important city.

The Dyersburg Courthouse Square Historic District contains numerous properties, which record in physical terms, the town's political, commercial, and architectural heritage which had been outlined above. In the local context of Dyer County politics, the area represented by the courthouse square had reigned supreme for over 150 years because, unlike some Tennessee counties, Dyersburg has always been the county seat and no other community in the county has mounted any serious challenge to its political predominance. Here, around the courthouse and in the square, the county's, major political rallies have been held for well over a century. Buildings such as the Classical Revival Dyer County Courthouse (#1) and 119

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S. Mill Avenue (#40), The City Hall building (#50) have not only served as Dyer County's centers for activity for government and politics throughout most of the twentieth century; their classical designs also are among the county's significant expressions of the Classical Revival architectural movement, which so shaped American architecture, and has a particularly strong regional influence in west Tennessee, during the first third of the century.

Indeed, the dual significance of many buildings, both in their architectural statement and in their commercial or political associations and characteristics of the Dyersburg Courthouse Square Historic District. For example, 100 S. Main Street (#25) stands at one of the major intersections of the square and has served as a bank, drug store, shoe shop, and restaurant. It is also one of the most visually striking commercial buildings in Dyersburg, the circa 1885 building is of Italianate and Second Empire stylistic elements forming an arresting eclectic architectural statement typical of the Victorian era. Other commercial structures with significant architectural values would include the Art Deco detailing found on 106 W. Court (#7), the monumental statement of classical Revival found at 200 W. Court (#14), the Italianate window treatments at 110-112 S. Main (#30), the Neo-classicism on 101 S. Mill Avenue (#43), and the Italianate storefront of 103 S. Mill Avenue (#44-46).

The buildings which surround the courthouse represent the commercial heart of Dyer County's economic development until fairly recent times. The construction of an interstate-quality highway and Mississippi River Bridge during the late 1970s led to the development of a regional shopping mall on the outskirts of town in the 1980s. However, this commercial strip development on the periphery of the historic district has not "killed" the courthouse square business district. A large number of properties, for instance 104-108 West Court Street (#6-8), dated to circa 1850, and 104 South Main Street (#27), dated to 1886, remain serving a commercial function much as they have for the last one hundred years. The district also contains properties which help to physically document significant periods in the city's commercial development. As the historic context summary points out, the arrival of a secure railroad link in the mid-1880s spurred Dyersburg's recovery from the Civil War and Reconstruction period. The elaborate Bank of Dyersburg building at 100 S. Main (#25) and Forked Deer Hardware company Building at 104 S. Main (#27) are evidence of the railroad's impact since they stand either at or nearby the courthouse square intersection which directly lead to the station (which is no longer extant). Indeed the majority of commercial buildings in the courthouse square date from the mid 1880s to 1900 and document the railroads heyday in

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Historic District

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Dyer County and Dyersburg's emergence as a significant regional trade center due to its connection to the railroad system.

A second period of major economic development was during the 1920s when the areas agricultural products were in high demand and topped off by the construction fo the Dyersburg Cotton Products plant in 1929. Ten building from the 1920s lie within the historic district. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, Dyersburg, like many other rural southern communities, had a diminished rate of growth. But part of its future salvation came with the emerging popularity of automobile and bus traffic along U. S. Highway 51 with the new highway serving much like the old railroad link in tying Dyersburg closely to major southern markets such as Memphis. the district also contains one significant buildings associated with this period, the Art Deco-styled Greyhound Bus Station built in 1938, at 304 W. Court. Even with the impact of the Depression and the development of the highway system, the courthouse square remained important to Dyersburg as a political and commercial center until the late 1960s and early 1970s.

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National Park Service**

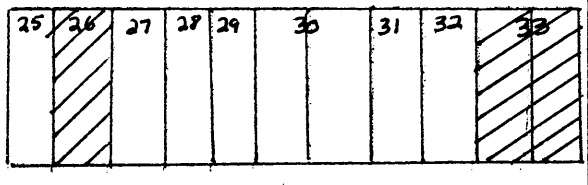
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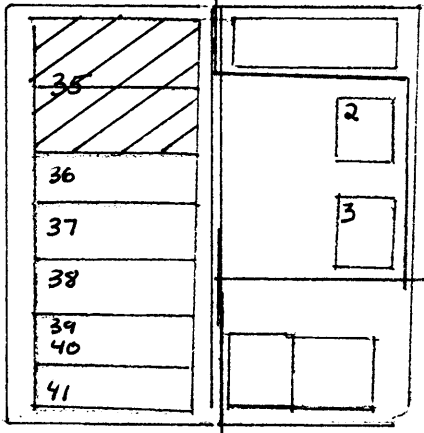
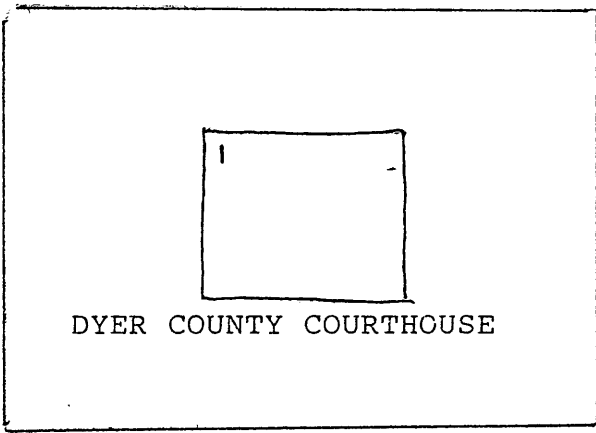
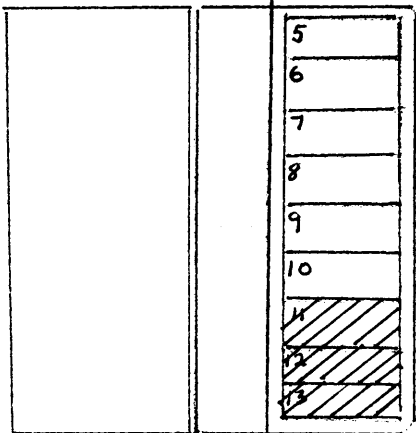
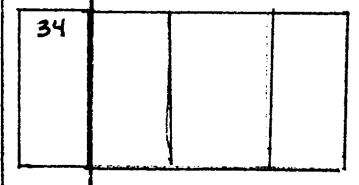
Dyersburg Courthouse Square  
Historic District

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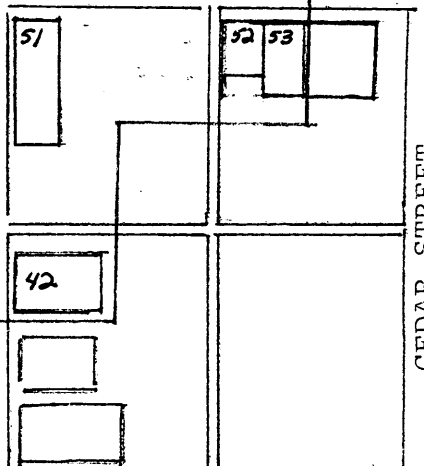
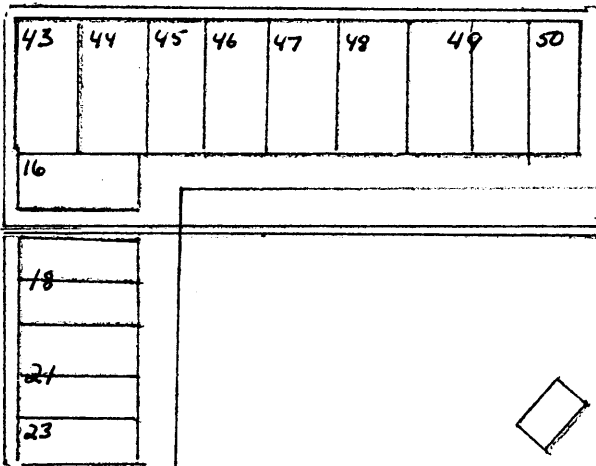
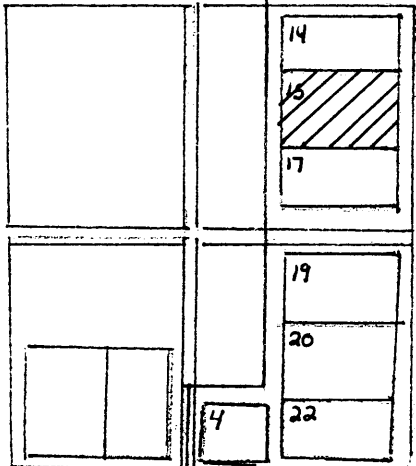
The Dyersburg Courthouse Square Historic District consists of the Dyer County Courthouse, the buildings on the courthouse square, being the 100 blocks of South Main, South Mill, West Court, and West Market Streets, portion of the odd numbered side of the 200 block of South Mill (201-217), the 100 block of North Church (100-108), the 200 block and 304 West Court - the former Greyhound Bus Station, 211 West Market, the 100 block of West Cedar, 200 South Main, and the odd numbered side of 200 block of South Mill (201-217). See Sketch Map.



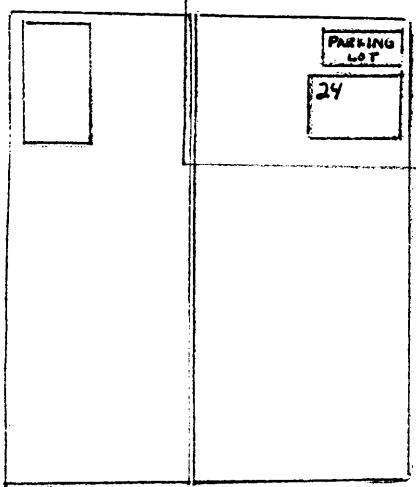
MAIN STREET





MILL AVENUE



CHURCH AVENUE



-  PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
-  PRINCIPAL NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

DYERSBURG COURTHOUSE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

DYERSBURG, DYER CO. TENNESSEE

Map 3 of 3

MASONIC STREET

COURT STREET

MARKET STREET

CEDAR STREET

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Dyersburg Courthouse Historic District  
Mill, Main, Market, Court and McGaughey streets  
Dyersburg, Dyer County, Tennessee  
Photos by: Carroll Van West  
Date: February 1990  
Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission  
Nashville, Tennessee

Dyer County Courthouse, facing south  
#1 of 15

Dyer County Courthouse, facing north  
#2 of 15

Corner of Main and Market, Town Square, facing north  
#3 of 15

Main Street, Town Square, facing east  
#4 of 15

Court Street, Town Square, facing north  
#5 of 15

Main Street, Town Square, facing southeast  
#6 of 15

Court Street, looking toward town square, facing northeast  
#7 of 15

Domino's Pizza (old Greyhound Bus Station), 304 West Court, facing  
northwest  
#8 of 15

Court Street, Town Square, facing northeast  
#9 of 15

Mill Avenue, Town Square, facing northwest  
#10 of 15

First Citizens Bank, corner of Mill and Court, facing northwest  
#11 of 15

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Mill Avenue, Town Square, facing south  
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Mill Avenue, Town Square, facing south  
#13 of 15

Mill Avenue, Town Square, facing south  
#14 of 15

Mill Avenue, Town Square, facing south  
#15 of 15