National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

city, town

| historic | COURT SQU | ARE HIS | TORIC D | ISTRICT | ····· | | |
|--|--|---------|--|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| and/or common | | | | | | | |
| 2. Loca | ation | | _ | | | | _ |
| street & number | north four | | Gand | Cost V | line Star a | | not for publication |
| city, town | Leitchfield | | vici | nity of | | | |
| state | Kentucky | code | 021 | county | Grayson | | code oi5 |
| 3. Clas | sificatio | n | | | | | |
| Category _X_ district building(s) structure site object | Ownership public private X both Public Acquisitio _na in process _na being conside | | tatus _X occupie _X unoccu work in .ccessible _X yes: res yes: uni no | pied progress stricted | Present Us agricultu _X commer educatio _X entertain _X governn industria military | ure cial pnal nment nent | museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other: |
| street & number | | | | | | | |
| city, town | | | vici | nity of | | state | |
| 5. Loca | ation of L | egal | Desc | riptio | n | | |
| courthouse, regi | stry of deeds, etc. | Gravso | on County | Courthou | ISE | | |
| street & number | · | | v | | | | |
| city, town | | Leitch | field | | | state | Kentucky |
| 6. Repi | resentati | | | ting S | Surveys | | |
| title KY Histor | ric Resources Inv | ventory | ł | as this prop | perty been deter | mined eligib | le? yesX no |
| date | 1984 | | | | federal | _X_state | county local |
| depository for su | urvey records | Kentu | cky Herit | age Counc | zil | | |
| city town | | Frankf | fort | | | state | Kentucky |

state

7. Description

| Condition excellent deteriorated fair ruins | Check one unaltered X_ altered | Check one X original site moved date |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
|---|--------------------------------------|--|

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The **Court Square Historic District** is located in the center of Leitchfield, the county seat of Grayson County, Kentucky. Leitchfield sits just north of the Western Kentucky Parkway approximately 70 miles southwest of Louisville. The main business section surrounds the downtown square on a true axis. The old Grayson County Courthouse sits squarely in the center of the district. Formed in 1810, this mid-western county is situated in the Pennyrile region and is characterized by generally level agricultural land of limited potential, mineral water springs and two rivers, the Nolin and Rough, which form much of its northern and southeast boundaries. Grayson County sites in the National Register include the Grayson Springs Hotel on KY 88 and 1214, The Cedars on KY 1214, and the Jack Thomas House in Leitchfield.

This district is composed of small-scale, turn-of-the-century and early 20th century Vernacular commercial buildings. Although not high-style, they are honest representations of a rural agricultural community. They range from one to three stories in height, are generally constructed of brick and have modest ornamentation. Of the 35 elements in the Leitchfield **Court Square District**, 26 contribute to the architectural fabric and character. Three of the nine non-contributing structures are so designated due to the 50-year rule and should be re-evaluated for inclusion as soon as they are eligible. The district includes structures up to one block north, east and west of the public square including those on the square. The square itself is roughly 275' by 275' with 65' wide cross streets, running north-south (KY 259) and east-west (KY 54). The district boundary runs at the rear property lines of all of the sites.

Beginning on the east side of North Main, the district includes 115-105 North Main (photo #1) at mid block, those structures in the northeast quadrant of the square (photos #2 & 3) continuing down the north side of East Main to include the old jail (photo #4). Continuing with the southeast (photos #5, 6, 7, 8, & 9) and southwest quadrants (photos #9 & 10) and the south side of West Main, it includes 106 and 110 (photo #11) at mid block. The district continues across the street on the north side of West Main to include 107 (photo #12), which is actually three storefronts, before returning to the square for the northwest quadrant (photos #13 & 14). It concludes on the west side of North Main at 110 (photo #15) and includes the courthouse at the center of the square (photo #16).

GY-L-1 - 115 North Main (photo #17) "The Opera House." This $2\frac{1}{2}$ story, three-bay brick structure is one of the more unusual buildings due to its Dutch influenced crow-stepped gable on the street or end facade. The gable terminates with an iron pediment and the windows have two course end jack arches. Built in the last decade of the 19th century, the second floor of the building has had varied uses including a temporary courthouse, basketball court, 1st World War induction center, manufacturing plant and, of course, an opera, vaudeville and movie hall. It has experienced first floor alterations but remains a local landmark.

GY-L-2 – 111 North Main (photo #18). Built in 1950, Horns Western Wear and the vacant lot to the south, are non-contributing elements to this district.

GY-L-3 - 105 North Main (photo #19). Built circa 1918, this modest three-story, brick structure was the People's Hardware Building. This four-bay structure is marked by rusticated brick and a two course, corbelled cornice. It has a shed roof and originally the plan of the building was an ell with a street facade on the square as well as North Main. It has since been subdivided and other alterations include window and first floor modifications.

GY-L-4 - 101 North Main (photo #20). "The Grayson County Bank Building" is the earliest and one of the most handsome on the square. Built in 1889, this two-story, three-bay brick building is distinguished by a fine pedimented cornice. Italianate decorative details include capped window hoodmolds and corbelled cornices at the roof and first floor ceiling levels, the latter of which also is denticulated.

8. Significance

| 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 | Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications | X community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement | music philosophy | religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify) |
|--|--|---|---------------------|---|
| Specific dates | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Builder/Architect | | |

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Leitchfield **Court Square Historic District** is significant as an example of late 19th and early 20th century commercial architecture. The integrity of materials, continuity and proportions all contribute to the architectural quality of the commercial center of this Grayson County seat. The buildings combine with the street and square layout to be a fine example of an early grid town plan in rural Kentucky.

Created in 1810, Grayson County was formed from parts of Ohio and Hardin Counties and named for Colonel William Grayson. Needing a county seat, Leitchfield was formed from land donated by General James Taylor and was named after his wife's late first husband, Major Leitch. It consisted of five streets running east/west and four running north/south parallel to a ridge on the east. Under this hill was a "big spring" to supply water for the small town. The five-by-four grid exists intact and still serves as the focal point for commerce, government and community life.

In 1830 Leitchfield's population numbered 166 of the county's almost 3,900. By 1910 the county had grown to nearly 20,000 and Leitchfield 1,000. Although the county seat has grown in recent years its turn of the century construction has been retained around the Court Square. Because the county's economy is still agricultural in nature the county seat remains vital for trade, banking and communications.

As retail practices have changed so too have many of the first floor facades. Most of the upper floors remain unaltered. Interior spaces are generally intact as tin ceilings, fixtures and stairs remain unaltered. Although there is architectural variation around the square, many of the details of brick corbelling, pressed tin motifs, cornice and window treatments recur with some regularity. In general the buildings adhere to those styles and building fashions that were prevalent at the turn of the 19th century and reflect a time of prosperity and vitality for a rural agricultural county seat.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

| 10. Ge | ographical | Data | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Acreage of nom Quadrangle nam UTM References | inated property <u>Appro</u> ne <u>Leitchfield</u> s | ox. 10 Acres | _ | Quadr | angle scale <u>1:24000</u> |
| A 1 6 5 Zone East | | 8 31 810 | B 1 6 Zone | 5 61 2 51 61 Easting | 0 4 11 4 8 214 0 Northing |
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| Verbal bounda See Continua | ary description and ju tion Sheet | stification | | | |
| List all states | and counties for proj | perties overla | pping state or c | ounty boundar | ies |
| state | | code | county | | code |
| state | | code | county | | code |
| 11. Fo | r <mark>m Prepare</mark> | d By | | | |
| name/title | Mary C. Breeding, | Senior Histo | rian | | |
| organization | Kentucky Heritage | e Council | d | ate | September, 1984 |
| street & number | Capital Plaza Tow | er | te | elephone | 502/564-7005 |
| city or town | Frankfort | | S | tate | Kentucky |
| 12. Sta | ate Historic | : Prese | rvation | Officer | Certification |
| The evaluated s | ignificance of this prope | • | | | |
| | national | state _ | X local | | |
| 665), I hereby no | ed State Historic Preserv ominate this property for criteria and procedures | inclusion in the | e National Register | and certify that | n Act of 1966 (Public Law 89– it has been evaluated |
| State Historic P | reservation Officer signa | ture Dev | d L. Mo | rgon | |
| title <u>state</u> | Hestay Prese | water a | officer | dat | e October 11, 1984 |
| For NPS use | • | | | | |
| I hereby c | ertify that this property is | | National Register ntered in the ational Regist | | e 11-23-84 |
| Keeper of th | e National Register | - "J | த்துக்கு படை காஜ்ஜீகத் (திதுக்கு பட்டன் இதுக்கு பட்டன் கிற | udu udu | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
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| Chief of Reg | istration | | | | |
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3/ Court Square Historic District Continuation sheet Leitchfield, Grayson Co., KY 4 2 Item number Page GY-L-1 115 North Main Street Mr. Kenneth Hemberger Highway 62 Canevville, KY 42721 GY-L-2 Ill North Main Street Mr. Carl Collard 111 North Main Street Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 GY-L-3 105 North Main Street Mr. Joe Whittle, Attorney 22 Public Square Leitchfield, KY 42754 GY-L-4 **Public Square** Mr. David Vickery, Attorney (Vickery Law Office) **Public Square** Leitchfield, KY 42754 GY-L-5 98 Public Square Vermont American **Industrial Park** Leitchfield, KY 42754 GY-L-6 96 Public Square Mr. Donald B. Allen 96 Public Square Leitchfield, KY 42754 GY-L-7 Public Square Mr. Joe Whittle, Attorney (Lively & Cannon Law OFfices) Public Square Leitchfield, KY 42754 GY-L-8 Public Square Arnette Estate, %Raymond Pearl (A & B Hardware) 213 West Main Street Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 GY-L-9 Public Square Mr. Jim Dinwiddie, Attorney (Alice Theater) **80** Public Square Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 GY-L-10 82 Public Square Mr. Jim Dinwiddie, Attorney 80 Public Square Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 GY-L-II East Main Mr. Jim Conder (Grayson County Jail) **R.F.D.**#2 Leitchfield, KY 47254 GY-L-12 76 Public Square Mrs. Patsy Jones, President Leitchfield Deposit Bank 76 Public Square

Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754

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| GY-L-13 | 71 Public Square | Mr. Robert Lucas Route #3 Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 |
|---------|--|--|
| GY-L-14 | Public Square (The Record) | Mr. W. J. Hughes 203 West Chestnut Street Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 |
| GY-L-15 | 66 Court Square | Leitchfield Masonic Lodge Public Square/South Main Street Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 |
| GY-L-16 | 62 Public Square | Mr. Jerry Guffey, County Attorney Mr. Kenneth F. Smart, Attorney 62 Public Square Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 |
| | 60 Public Square | Mr. Kenneth H. Goff, Attorney R.F.D.#3 Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 |
| | Public Square (J.S. Conder Real Estate) | Leitchfield Masonic Lodge Public Square/S.Main Street Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 |
| GY-L-17 | 57 Public Square | Mrs. Ruby W. Hull 2214 Allicson Lane Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130 |
| GY-L-18 | 56 Public Square | Mr. Doug South 307 North Main Street Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 |
| GY-L-19 | 54 Public Square | Mrs. Evelyn Wallace %30 Public Square Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 |
| GY-L-20 | 52 Public Square | Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Payne 501 Mill Street Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 |
| GY-L-21 | 50 Public Square | Mrs. Ruby W. Hull 2214 Allison Lane Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130 |
| GY-L-22 | 48 Public Square | Mrs. Harvey Anderson 205 Spring Street Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754 |
| | | |

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| Continuation she | eet Leitchfield, Grayson Co., KY | Item number 4 | Page | 4 |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--------|---|
| GY-L-23 | 44 Public Square | Mr. Raymond Pe 213 West Main S Leitchfield, Ker | treet | |
| GY-L-24 | Public Square (Kentucky Finance) | Mrs.Nellie Duva 111 South English Leitchfield, Ker | Street | |
| GY-L-25 | 40 Public Square | Mr. Boyd Sisk 117 East Chestnu Leitchfield, Ker | | |
| GY-L-26 | 106 West Main | Mr. Guy VanMet 1006 Brandenbur Leitchfield, Ker | g Road | |
| GY-L-27 | ll0 West Main | Mr. B. H. McBea 2504 Hawthorne Louisville, Kent | | |
| GY-L-28 GY-L-29 | 107 West Main | Mr. Raymond Pe 213 West Main S Leitchfield, Ker | treet | |
| | 107 West Main | Mr. Claude McC 208 West Chestr Leitchfield, Ker | nut | |
| | 107 West Main | Mr. Walter B. La 301 West Main S Leitchfield, Ker | treet | |
| GY-L-30 | 32 Public Square | Mr. Ron Hudson 604 Miller Aven Leitchfield, Ker | ue | |
| GY-L-31 | 30 Public Square | Mr. Rudd A. Ken 30 Public Square Leitchfield, Ker | e | |
| GY-L-32 GY-L-32 GY-L-32 | 25 Public Square 24 Public Square 23 Public Square | G & E Enterpris 212 North Third Bardstown, Ken | Street | |
| GY-L-33 | 22 Public Square | Mrs. Joan Siebel 2126 Ekin Avenu New Albany, Ind | e | |

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Court Square Historic District

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Continuation sheet Leitchfield, Grayson Co., KYItem number4PageGY-L-35Public SquareGrayson County Fiscal Court
Grayson County Courthouse
Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754GY-L-34110 North Main StreetMr. Kenny Glasscock
Glasscock Ford, Incorporated
110 North Main Street
Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form Court Square Historic District Leitchfield, Grayson Co., Ky. Item number 7 Page 2

GY-L-5 - 98 Public Square (photo #21). This is the alternate facade of GY-L-3 (photo #19). It is identical in material and decorative detailing.

GY-L-6 - 92 Public Square (photo #22) "Gentrys Restaurant." Representative of the style and scale of the Court Square District, it was built in the first quarter of the 20th century. The cast-iron anthemia leaf console motif that is so prevalent around the square appears on this structure as well.

GY-L-7 - 90 Public Square (photo #23). Built in 1934, this small, one-story building was constructed for Dr. D. C. Richardson, D.D. The cement and brick construction, along with the Greek Revival door, make it unique in the district.

GY-L-8 - Public Square (photo #24). A & B Hardware is a non-contributing element to this district.

GY-L-9 - 80 Public Square (photo #25) and GY-L-10 - 82 Public Square (photos #3 & 26). The Alice Theater and Alexander Hotel were constructed in 1935. They are, due to their late construction date, non-contributing elements to the district. They are, however, appropriate in materials and scale for the district and are a visual asset to a major corner of the square. It is hoped that they may be re-evaluated for inclusion as contributing elements at a later date.

GY-L-II – **II3 East Main** (photo #27). The Old Grayson County Jail, built in 1934, is an example of WPA Public Architecture. Classical in design elements (palladian window and pilasters) it has unusual and decorative brick and stone patterns on the front facade.

GY-L-12 - 76 Public Square (photo #5). The Leitchfield Deposit Bank and Trust Company is a non-contributing element.

GY-L-13 - 71 Public Square (photo #6). This small, two-story, two-bay brick building with a shed roof is one of the earliest on the square. It dates before 1894 and was probably initially an icehouse although for many years it was the local telephone exchange and office. The cast-iron elements are similar to those around the square.

GY-L-14 - 68 Public Square (photo #28) "Leitchfield Gazette Building." This one-story building was built in 1905 by John S. Hughes and Son.

GY-L-15 - 66 Public Square (photo #29). This structure is a non-contributing element to the district.

GY-L-16 – **Public Square** (photo #12). Circa 1905, "The Masonic Lodge" occupies the east corner of the Public Square and South Main. It is an imposing $2\frac{1}{2}$ story, four-by-three bay, brick structure that continues to be used by several orders along with professional businesses and retailers. Corbelling creates recessed panels for the fenestration and pilasters separating the bays on the second floor.

GY-L-17 - 57 Public Square (photo #30)

GY-L-18 - 56 Public Square (photo #9)

GY-L-19 - 54 Public Square (photo #9). These three structures are uniform in size and scale. 57, on the west corner of the square and South Main is a contributing element even though the first floor is altered. Although similar in form, 56 and 54 Public Square are non-contributing elements.

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GY-L-20 - 52 Public Square (photo #31) and GY-L-21 - 50 Public Square (photo #32). These structures, circa 1900, are representative of the materials, scale and decorative fabric of the early buildings on the Public Square. They both have three course corbelling at their cornices. Distinguishing features include rusticated brickwork and cast-iron pilasters with the recurring anthemia motif.

GY-L-22 - 48 Public Square (photo #33) "Leitchfield Clothing Manufacturing Company"

GY-L-23 - 44 Public Square (photos #33 & 34) "Leitchfield Clothing Manufacturing Company"

GY-L-24 - 42 Public Square (photo #35) and GY-L-25 - 40 Public Square (photos #35 & 36) "Moorman Drugstore Building." This west block of the southwest quadrant of the Public Square retains four unified structures similar in size, scale, materials and motifs. They provide a contiguous mass to the square. The first two buildings, 48 and 44 Public Square (photo #3) were built by the Leitchfield Clothing Manufacturing Company to house storage, pressing, cutting and assembling rooms. The smaller, three-bay building (GY-L-22) was built shortly after 1901 while the adjacent six-bay structure (GY-L-23) was constructed in 1900. In 1903, the company boasted of producing 450 pairs of pants and 100 suits on an average day. The larger structure is an ell in plan with a facade facing West Main (photo #34). This plan is similar to that of the original plan for 105 North Main (GY-L-3, photo #19) and 98 Public Square (GY-L-5, photo #21).

On the corner of West Main and the Square is the Moorman Building (GY-L-25, photos #35 & 36). Constructed in 1900, the original cornice configuration included corner finials and a central pediment. The side facade on West Main exhibits a recessed course of stretchers every sixth row that extends the length of the structure, nearly ten bays (photo #36).

GY-L-26 – **106 West Main** (photo #37). "The Ben Franklin Store" built in 1932 is a vernacular commercial structure which contributes to the overall feeling of the district.

GY-L-27 - **ll0 West Main** (photo #38) "The Peoples Hardware and Furniture Company." This structure, built in 1920, is composed of two adjacent facades. They both exhibit decorative brickwork and are in keeping with the scale of the district.

GY-L-28 - 111 and 109 West Main (photos #39 & 40)

GY-L-29 - 107 West Main (photo #41). Built circa 1900, 111-109 West Main is a two-story, six-bay building exhibiting some of the more unusual decorative brickwork in the district. Brick corbelling and decorative footer patterns adorn the facade as well as brick courses that extend the width of the facade, incorporating jack window arches at the bays. It has had a variety of retail uses including restaurant, coffee roasting business, clothing store and real estate office. The adjacent building, 107 West Main (GY-L-29, photo #41), is similar in size and scale but has more traditional exterior features. Built circa 1900, it has been occupied by the Grayson County Supply Company and a variety of retail enterprises.

GY-L-30 - 32 Public Square (photos #42, 43, 44 & 45) "Leitchfield Mercantile/Big Seven." Built in 1898, the Leitchfield Mercantile Building has long been a community landmark. This three-story, brick commercial building has an imposing presence on the Public Square and was enthusiastically nicknamed the Big Seven because of the seven departments in the original store. The interior retains its original two floor open space with a surrounding gallery while the third floor is enclosed and lit with skylights. The exterior decorative fabric includes a multi-coursed cornice and egg and dart molding.

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GY-L-3I - 30 Public Square (photos #43 & 46) "The Leitchfield Deposit Bank." The bank was organized in 1897 and its structure was completed shortly thereafter. It was built as a small, one-story, three-bay structure with a wide pedimented cornice. Italianate brackets, corbelling, rusticated bricks and a stone course were exterior details. At an unknown later date the building was modified to its present appearance. Radial fanlights above all three openings, Corinthian columns supporting an entablature and cornice and a pedimented roof-line with single crenalations on either side of the pediment were all part of the alterations. Although these changes created a major transformation in the structure it has long since contained a different integrity in its own right.

GY-L-32 - 25 Public Square (photo #47); 24 Public Square (photo #47); 23 Public Square (photo #47)

GY-L-33 – **22 Public Square** (photo #48). Together this pair of buildings is known as "Irish Row" and were constructed before 1901. This remarkable stretch is comprised of two, multi-bay units that have, over the years, been divided into spaces that best served prevailing needs. Brick cornice, brackets, corbelled courses and cast-iron pilasters are contiguous across the facade. The cast-iron anthemia motifs are again found on the Irish Row.

GY-L-34 - 110 North Main (photo #49). Built in 1924, this commercial structure has continually been used as a car dealership. It is concrete and steel construction with a brick facade. It is a major element of the district occupying close to one-half a city block. It has experienced few exterior alterations.

GY-L-35 – **Public Square** (photos #16 & 50) "Grayson County Courthouse." Although the Courthouse is a non-contributing element due to its recent construction date, its size, scale and structural fabric add to the continuity of the district. It should be re-evaluated for inclusion at a later date.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Bibliography

- Collins, Richard & Lewis. <u>A History of Kentucky</u>. Reprint Ed. Berea, Kentucky: Kentucke Imprints, 1974.
- "Grayson County, Kentucky, in the 20th Century." Supplement to the <u>Grayson County Gazette</u>, Leitchfield, November 1903.
- Leitchfield City Map, Sanborn Map Company, New York, 1901.
- Leitchfield City Map, Sanborn Map Company, New York, 1925.

Additional information provided by the owners.

Bettie Conklin Killick's "Memory of Leitchfield 1855-1870," <u>The Leitchfield Gazette</u>, Thursday, March 21, 1974. A-3.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description & Justification

Beginning at the rear property line of the Leitchfield Deposit Bank at 76 Public Square, approximately 75 feet east of the intersection of East Main and the Public Square on East Main; continuing along the rear property lines of those buildings facing the Square on the southeast quadrant; moving west along the rear property lines of those buildings facing the Square on the southeast southwest quadrant; proceeding west on West Main (approximately 200 feet) along the rear property lines of those buildings on the south side facing north to include 106 and 110 West Main; and including, on the north side, those buildings facing the Square on the northwest quadrant; and proceeding north on North Main (approximately 350 feet) to include the property at 110 North Main on the west side and crossing the street, to the rear property lines, those on the east side to include 115, 111 and 105 North Main; upon returning to the Square on the northeast quadrant; moving east (approximately 150 feet) on East Main to include the Grayson County Jail, then returning across East Main to the point of departure.





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