

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 9 1986

date entered

NOV 17 1986

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

1. Name

historic STANFORD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Multiple--See Continuation Sheet not for publication

city, town Stanford vicinity of

state Kentucky code 021 county Lincoln code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln County Courthouse

street & number East Main Street

city, town Stanford state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources Inventory of Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date April 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stanford Commercial District consists of three blocks of Main Street from Somerset Street to Third Street. The district comprises the core of the town's late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture.

With a population of 2,764, Stanford is the largest town and seat of government of Lincoln County, which is situated in the central section of the Commonwealth. Located in the southern section of the Bluegrass region, the county is predominantly rural with the vast majority of the land in croplands, forests, and pastures. The southern area of the county is characterized by rough and hilly terrain intersected by numerous streams such as Buck, Buckeye, Buffalo, Fishing, Hurricane, Mill and Pilot Creeks. The best agricultural land is located in the northeast and northwest sections of the county. This area of the county is also traversed by numerous waterways including Blue Licks, Gilbert's, Hanging Fork, Knoblick, Mudlick and Walnut Flats Creeks, as well as the Dix River. Ten miles to the northwest is Danville, a city of 13,000 and ten miles to the northeast is Lancaster, a town of 3,365. Forty miles to the north is Lexington, the major metropolitan area in the Bluegrass region.

The district is bounded on the east and west by residential areas, on the south by St. Asaph Creek, and by a mixed residential commercial area on the north.

Although ranging from ca. 1850 to ca. 1913, the greatest percentage of the commercial buildings were constructed in the last three decades of the nineteenth century. Of the eighteen buildings included within the district boundaries, only two are considered non-contributing structures. Non-contributing buildings are Lincoln County Federal Savings and Loan Association on the south side of the 100 block of West Main Street and the Lincoln County National Bank on the north side of the 100 block of West Main Street. Prior to their "modernizations" ca. 1975-76, both were excellent representations of Italianate commercial architecture.

The south side of the 200 block of West Main Street is comprised of two-story brick buildings constructed ca. 1876 to ca. 1913, and includes one of the most architecturally significant structures within the district (photo 1). Displaying storefronts of two and three bays, half of the buildings are characterized by unadorned facades. Of interest is the former Stanford Hotel, situated at the western end of the block. Constructed ca. 1876, this substantial two-story brick building provides a good illustration of late nineteenth century commercial architecture (photo 2). The building is divided into three shopfronts, two of which retain architectural elements of their original castiron storefronts. No. 217, at the corner of West Main and Somerset Streets, features the original pressed tin ceiling. Upper level bays are distinguished by segmental-arched brick hoodmolds and a corbelled cornice completes the building (photo 3). Below the cornice are recessed panels, articulated by brick pilaster strips and embellished by circular metal medallions. Adjacent to the former hotel is a smaller two-story brick structure which also has segmental-arched brick hoodmolds over the upper level bays. Completing the block are two buildings of pressed brick construction. Built ca. 1913, they replaced two Italianate commercial structures which were destroyed by fire.

A densely built row of two-story brick buildings is situated on the north side of the 200 block of West Main Street (photos 4 & 5). Executed in common bond brickwork, the buildings display three-bay storefronts and upper level fenestrations of eight and ten bays. At the eastern end

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Ca. 1850 - Ca. 1913 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stanford Commercial District is significant for its historical association with the commercial development of the town, as well as the development of Stanford as the major commercial and cultural center in Lincoln County. Representing the core of the business section of Stanford, the commercial district comprises a noteworthy concentration of well-preserved late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture. This unique collection of buildings produces a streetscape which evokes an ambience that is clearly distinct from the rest of Stanford. As such, the commercial district is among the best examples of its type in the central section of Kentucky.

Lincoln County along with Fayette and Jefferson Counties were formed in 1780 from Kentucky County, Virginia, and are the three original counties organized in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The first excursion into the new territory was made by Benjamin Logan, a native of Augusta County, Virginia, in 1775. The same year he established Logan's Fort, also known as St. Asaph's Station, approximately one mile west of Stanford. In 1781 at the February Session of the Lincoln County Court held in Harrodsburg, legislation was enacted for the establishment of the seat of government on ten acres of land at Logan's Fort and for formation of the town of Stanford on fifty acres of land donated by Logan one mile east of his station. Six years later at the February term of the Lincoln County Court, legislation was passed for the building of a courthouse in the town of Stanford and the same year a log structure, measuring 20 feet by 30 feet, was constructed in the town.

Situated on the Wilderness Trail, one of the earliest migratory routes from Virginia into the new territory of Kentucky, Stanford prospered as the seat of government, as well as the major commercial and cultural center in the county. In 1830 the population of the town was 363 and by the outbreak of the Civil War, Stanford had a population of 479.

In 1866 the Lebanon Branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad was constructed to Stanford. The construction of the railroad was the major economic impact for Stanford in the post Civil War period. The new mode of transportation was a significant stimulus to the growth and prosperity of the town. In 1870 the population of Stanford was 752 and by 1893 the population of the town had tripled to 2,200.

The economic stimulus of rail transportation is evident by the commercial buildings which were constructed in the last three decades of the nineteenth century. Buildings such as the former Walton's Opera House on the south side of the 100 block of East Main Street and the former Stanford Hotel on the south side of the 200 block of West Main Street reflect the new prosperity of the town as a result of the railroad. Handsome Italianate commercial buildings such as Number 103 West Main Street (Boone's Hardware) and 114 West Main Street (Boone and Cave Store) further illustrate the post Civil War prosperity of the town.

In conclusion, the Stanford Commercial District is an excellent and unique collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings which possess significant architectural and historical importance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Five

Quadrangle name Stanford

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
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F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the corner of the 200 block of West Main and Somerset Streets, and approximately ten feet from the northwest corner of the former Hotel Stanford Building, proceed 175 feet in a southward direction; thence 650 feet in an eastward direction along the rear property lines of commercial buildings on the south side of Main Street;

(Continued)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Gus Johnson, Senior Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date May 28, 1986

street & number 12th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower telephone 564-7005

city or town Frankfort state Kentucky

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature David L. Meyer

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10/03/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Amy Schlager

date 11/17/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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of the block is an impressive building which is divided into three storefronts (photo 6). The handsome castiron shopfronts, manufactured by the Price-Evans Foundry Company of Chattanooga, Tennessee, remain intact. Brick pilasters articulate the upper level facade which is pierced by segmental-arched windows accented by pressed-metal pedimented window caps of a late Italianate character. Between the pilasters are corbel rows and recessed panels. A pressed metal cornice with brackets, consoles and oblong medallions completes the structure.

The south side of the 100 block of West Main Street is comprised of two-story brick buildings, and includes the oldest commercial structure in the district (photo 7 & 8). There is one non-contributing structure on the block, the Lincoln County Federal Savings and Loan Association Building. Situated at the western end of the block is a large antebellum brick structure, which was originally utilized as an inn (photos 9 & 10). Constructed prior to the Civil War, this substantial two-story building is executed in common bond brickwork, and features dual stack interior gable-end chimneys. The building is divided into four store units and the corner unit retains the original castiron storefront, manufactured by the Mesner Brothers Company of St. Louis, Missouri. Interior features reveal shouldered architrave door and window frames. At the eastern end of the block is the Coleman's Drug Building, a good illustration of late nineteenth century commercial architecture. Built ca. 1876-80, this two-story brick building with a castiron storefront has been continually utilized as a pharmacy since its construction. There are several unique interior features including the pressed tin ceiling and a handsome ca. 1900 soda fountain, constructed of cherry hardwood and embellished with Tiffany Glass. Completing the block is the Boone's Hardware Building, an impressive Italianate commercial structure (photo 11). The two-story brick building is distinguished by an attractive castiron storefront, while the upper level is articulated by a double round-arched window, flanked by single round-arch windows. The upper level bays are accented by pressed metal hoodmolds with consoles and keystones.

A densely built row of two-story brick buildings comprise the north side of the 100 block of West Main Street (photo 12). There is one non-contributing structure on the block, the Lincoln County National Bank on the corner of West Main and Lancaster Streets. At the western end of the block are a pair of similar two-story brick buildings. Both retain castiron storefronts, and the upper levels are punctured by large straight-headed windows adorned with metal cornices (photo 13). Adjacent to these buildings is an impressive late Italianate commercial building (photo 14). Divided into two store units, this two-story brick building exhibits handsome castiron storefronts (photos 15 & 16). The upper level of the western end of the building (Brady's) is punctured by a double round-arched window, flanked by a door with round-arched transom and a single round-arched window. These bays are enhanced by ornate pressed metal hoodmolds. The eastern end of the building is pierced by segmental arched bays, accented by less ornate motel hoodmolds. Sheltering the upper level bays are one-story, three-bay verandas with square bannisters and metal awnings, and completing the building is a handsome pressed metal cornice with brackets and consoles.

Two large-scaled commercial buildings comprise the 100 block of East Main Street (photo 17). At the western end of the block is a substantial two-story brick building, which is divided into three store units (photo 18). Constructed ca. 1876-80 to house Walton's Opera House, this impressive building provides another illustration of late nineteenth century commercial architecture. Although

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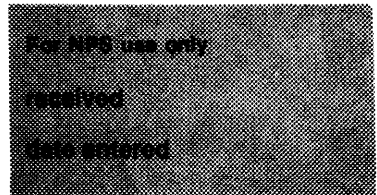
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two of the shopfronts have been altered, one unit retains the original castiron storefront. Brick pilasters articulate the second floor, and the extraordinarily large windows are distinguished by pressed metal pedimented window caps of a late Italianate character. Above the windows are circular metal medallions similar to these found on several other buildings in the commercial district. Adjacent to the former Opera House is one of the most architecturally significant buildings in the district (photo 17). This large two-story brick building is distinguished by a handsome metal facade, which exhibits classical details. Windows are framed by Corinthian engaged columns resting on separate pedestals which are enhanced by rosettes. An impressive cornice completes the structure.

The boundaries have been determined so as to encompass all of Stanford's late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries commercial buildings which comprise a historic entity and an architectural unity.

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The historic sites survey of Stanford in Lincoln County was conducted in April 1986 by William Gus Johnson, Senior Historian. The survey is part of a ten-year project of the Kentucky Heritage Council to survey the state's architectural, historical, and archaeological resources on a county-by-county basis.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Klein, Maury., History of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1972.

Perrin, William H., Kentucky, A History of the State. Louisville: F. A. Battey and Company, 1887.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal boundary description & justification (continued)

thence 220 feet in a northward direction along the west side of Third Street; thence 200 feet in a westward direction along the north side of Main Street; thence 200 feet in a northward direction along the west side of Lancaster Street; thence 450 feet in a westward direction along the rear property lines of commercial buildings on the north side of Main Street; thence 410 feet in a southward direction along the east side of Mill Street to the point of origin.

The boundaries have been determined so as to encompass all of Stanford's commercial district which comprise a historic entity and an architectural unity.



STANFORD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
Lincoln County, Kentucky

Photographic Site Map

① Position of Photographer + photo no.
Map 3

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