

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



Boundary Increase

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mayfield Downtown Commercial District (district expansion)  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

Properties primarily along E.&W. Broadway, E.&W. South St., E.&W. Water St.,  
street & number N.&S. 6th St., N.&S. 7th St., N.&S. 8th St., N.&S. 9th St.  not for publication N/A  
and S. 10th St.  
city or town Mayfield  vicinity N/A  
state Kentucky code KY county Graves code 083 zip code 42066

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
David L. Morgan, SPO and  
Executive Director 6-6-96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson W. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 7-25-96  
Entered in the  
National Register

Mayfield Downtown Commercial District  
Name of Property

Graves, Kentucky  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
21	5	buildings
	8	sites
		structures
		objects
21	13	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

61 originally, 49 remain

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Professional  
Commerce/ Financial institution  
Commerce/Specialty store  
Commerce/Department store  
Social/Meeting hall  
Government/Courthouse  
Domestic/Hotel  
Religion/Religious facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Professional  
Commerce/Financial institution  
Commerce/Specialty store  
Commerce/Department store  
Social/Meeting hall  
Government/Courthouse  
Domestic/Hotel  
Religion/Religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and early 20th Century American  
Movements: Prairie School, Commercial Style,  
Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls brick  
wood  
roof asphalt  
other granite

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

Mayfield Downtown Commercial District  
Name of Property

Graves, Kentucky  
County and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheets.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

See continuation sheets.  
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning & Development

#### Period of Significance

1860-1945

#### Significant Dates

1860

1899

1930

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

Mayfield Downtown Commercial District  
Name of Property

Graves, Kentucky  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 45.38 acres (original district and expansion area)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	3	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	4	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.  
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** See continuation sheet and map.  
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Donna G. Logsdon, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Logsdon & Logsdon Architects date 7/7/95

street & number 1135 Glen Logsdon Road telephone (502) 528-4698

city or town Horse Cave state Kentucky zip code 42749

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

6. Function or Use

Industry/Manufacturing	Commercial/Professional
Domestic/Single Dwelling	Industry/Manufacturing
Culture/Theatre	Culture/Theatre
Culture/Auditorium	Culture/Auditorium
Government/Post Office	Government/Post Office
Health Care/Hospital	Health Care/Hospital
Transportation/road related	Social/Civic
	Commerce/Office

7. Architectural Classification

Modern Movement: Moderne  
 Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival  
 Late Victorian: Italianate  
 Mid 19th Century: Greek Revival, Gothic Revival

Description

The Mayfield Downtown Commercial District is located in Graves County, Kentucky, surrounding and branching out from the central courthouse square. Mayfield's Downtown Commercial District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. This forms documents the physical character and justifies the historic significance of an additional nine-block area roughly bounded by North Street on the north, Water Street on the south, 5th and 6th Streets on the east, and 10th and 12th Streets on the west. The currently listed district was comprised of 61 contributing structures, however, only 49 structures remain.

The nine block area proposed in this nomination as the newly expanded district is composed of 31 properties. These properties are comprised of 26 buildings; all but five are contributing to the district's sense of place and time, and eight non-contributing sites. Historically, the town developed in the area surrounding the courthouse, extending north beyond North Street, east past Fifth Street, south beyond Walnut Street, and west to the railroad track. The revised district boundaries are similar to the 1880s city limits incorporating a cohesive group of buildings that are significant to the historical development of the town.

The majority of commercial buildings are located on Broadway, the main thoroughfare through town. The west end of the historic district begins on the north side of West Broadway at the railroad track with three brick commercial buildings and continues east along Broadway one block past the courthouse square terminating at 224 East Broadway. The district then

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extends south down Fifth Street to include Dillon Manufacturing which is located on both sides of the street connected with an overhead crosswalk. Turning west on Water Street one-half block the boundary travels south along the rear lot line of the first two buildings in the 300 block of S. Sixth Street. The boundary travels west along the rear lot line of the properties facing Water Street between S. Sixth and S. Seventh Streets the heads north on S. Eighth Street. The district line travels west on W. Water Street past Mary Nell Industries, Inc. then extends north along the rear lot line to W. South Street. Heading east on W. South Street to include the property at 115 N. Ninth Street. The northeastern corner of the district includes Lourdes Hospice at 105 E. North Street. The district is comprised of primarily two-story brick structures with flat roofs, and a few two-story wood frame structures with hip roofs, constructed on long narrow lots, representing a period of significance spanning from 1860 to 1945.

**Developmental Context**

The majority of the buildings comprising the current district date between 1880 and 1910 and face the courthouse square. Architectural influences include the Chicago, Art Deco, and Moderne styles. Individual buildings contributing to the district include a fraternal building which contained a theater, a block-long factory building, a post office, two churches and a hotel.

Revising the boundaries of the commercial district seems appropriate after eleven years, since fourteen buildings have vanished. In addition, the passage of time and expanded perspective allows for us to see that twenty-three contiguous, intact, historic resources now contribute to the town's sense of time and place. The district has expanded outward to include 9 more blocks for a total of 18 blocks with four east-west streets and six north-south streets. This additional area is comprised of residential, commercial, governmental, religious, and industrial properties built between 1860 and 1945. These buildings support the boundary expansion through their integrity and significance to the growth and development of Mayfield from the time the town was organized and platted in 1824 through the 1940s.

A List of Resources follows:

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Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

<u>CODE</u>	<u>RESOURCE #</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>C/NC</u>
3		310-305 S. 6TH ST.	VACANT LAND		1NCS
4	GVM-110	110-112 E. WATER ST.		1930s	1CB
5	GVM-111	106-108 E. WATER ST.		1930s	1CB
6		102-104 E. WATER ST.			1NCB
7	GVM-112	302 S. 7TH ST.		1940s	1CB
8		307 E. WATER ST.	VACANT LAND		1NCS
9		222 S. 5TH ST.	VACANT LAND		1NCS
10	GV-M-59	E. SOUTH & S. FIFTH ST.	DILLON MANUF. CO., (MERIT CLOTHING CO.)	1899	1CB
11	GVM-173	325 W. WATER ST.	MAYFIELD MANUFACTURING, MARY NELL INDUSTRIES, INC.	1860	4CB
12	GVM-172	115 S. 9TH ST.	1ST. CHRISTIAN CH.	1906	1CB
13	GVM-165	411 W. BROADWAY ST.	CHAMPION PLUMBING	1920s	1CB
14	GVM-90	407-409 W. BROADWAY	ST. HOBACK'S USED APPL.	1920'S	1CB
15	GVM-166	405 W. BROADWAY		1930s	1CB
16		327-339 W. BROADWAY	VACANT LAND		1NCS
17		315 W. BROADWAY	MAYFIELD RENTAL & SALES CENTER		1NCB
18	GVM-89	309 W. BROADWAY ST.	HARRELL BROS. HARDWARE	1930'S	1CB

CB=CONTRIBUTING BUILDING, NCB=NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING, NCS=NON-CONTRIB.SITE

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Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

<u>CODE</u>	<u>RESOURCE #</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>C/NC</u>
19		WEST OF 303 W. BROADWAY	VACANT LAND		1NCS
20	GVM-163	303 W. BROADWAY ST.	PRESB. CHURCH	1915	1CB
21	GVM-174	224 W. BROADWAY ST.		1924	1CB
22		220 W. BROADWAY	CARR'S BARN		1NCB
23	GVM-88	212 W. BROADWAY	TIRE STORE J.P. PARKS	1920'S	1CB
24	GVM-87	206 W. BROADWAY	JERRY'S APPLIANCES	1920s	1CB
25		204 W. BROADWAY	VACANT LAND		1NCS
26	GVM-86	202 W. BROADWAY	MIDSTATES GLASS CO.	1920s	1CB
27		108 S. 9TH ST.	K&N ROOT BEER DRIVE INN		1NCB
28		110 S. 9TH ST.	W. WILLIAMS FAMILY PRACTICE		1NCB
29	GVM-171	124 S. 9TH ST.	BOX OFFICE	1940s	1CB
30	GVM-70	223 W. SOUTH ST.	WALTER ALBRITTON RESIDENCE, AMERICAN RED CROSS	1910	1CB
31		121 S. 8TH ST.	VACANT LAND		1NCS
32		(115) S. 8TH	VACANT LAND		1NCS
33	GVM-78	105 E. NORTH ST.	LOURDES HOSPICE, FULLER-GILLIAM HOSP.	1936	1CB

CB=CONTRIBUTING BUILDING, NCB=NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING, NCS=NON-CONTRIB. SITE

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Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PERTAINS TO CHANGES TO THE 1984 NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT LIST OF BUILDINGS

A COMPLETE LIST OF STRUCTURES THAT NO LONGER EXIST THAT WERE PART OF THE 1984 NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>RESOURCE #</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
GV-M-17	107-111 E. BROADWAY
GV-M-18	113 E. BROADWAY
GV-M-19	115-117 E. BROADWAY
GV-M-20	121 E. BROADWAY
GV-M-21	123 E. BROADWAY
GV-M-22	129 E. BROADWAY
GV-M-37	211 S. 6TH ST.
GV-M-38	217 S. 6TH ST.
GV-M-39	219 S. 6TH ST.
GV-M-40	222 S. 6TH ST.
GV-M-41	225 S. 6TH ST.
GV-M-42	226 S. 6TH ST.
GV-M-50	120 W. BROADWAY

MISNUMBERED AND ADDRESS CHANGES

GV-M-55 IS GV-M-2 221 W. BROADWAY POST OFFICE

FILE NUMBER NOT LISTED AS PART OF DISTRICT IN 1984

GV-M-3 100 E. BROADWAY GRAVES COUNTY COURTHOUSE

INTRUSIONS NOW INCLUDED AS PART OF THE REVISED 1995 NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT

GVM-158	105 S. 7TH ST.	
GVM-160	107 S. 7TH ST.	TEACHERS CHOICE, FAMILY SHOES

INTRUSIONS THAT NO LONGER EXIST

SUNOCO STATION	SE CORNER OF BROADWAY AND 8TH ST.
GRAY'S BUICK	111 N. 6TH

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### Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

#### Building Characteristics

The majority of buildings within the current district are closely situated on long narrow lots, averaging 25 feet wide and 150 long surrounding the courthouse. Branching out from the central core, in the expanded area, are larger lots ranging from 50 to 100 feet wide and 150 feet long with space between the buildings. As early as 1880 blocks surrounding the courthouse square were divided into 50 and 100 foot width lots with numerous buildings facing the courthouse. By 1886 the lots were sub-divided and appear similar to today's narrow lots. The majority of structures are two-story, however there is one five-story building, and a few one-story commercial buildings. Many of the buildings are constructed of brick laid in common bond, however, there are a few stone structures and a two-story wood-frame residential structure # 49, originally known as the Walter Albritton Residence which has been converted to commercial use for the American Red Cross (GVM-70) along the district's edge in the expanded area. This American Four Square building represents the Prairie style not commonly seen in the commercial district. As with most multi-story commercial buildings, the primary function of the business is synonymous with the ground floor usage. Upper stories were used for office space, apartments, storage, or are vacant.

The buildings in the expanded district represent a span of commercial building dating from 1860 to 1945 and reflect several trends in commercial architectural styles during that period. Commercial buildings built prior to 1910 display a higher degree of ornamentation, evident during the Late Victorian period, than after this period. Corbeled brick arches above the top story windows and projecting horizontal bands at cornice lines accentuate the parapet walls with low sloping or flat roofs behind. Churches and governmental buildings displayed an abundance of ornament typical during the late 19th Century and early 20th Century representing Classical Revival, Gothic Revival, and Greek Revival styles.

The industrial buildings are less ornamental in detail with a streamlined appearance devoid of embellishments. Curved brick corners, glass block windows, and recessed brick rectangular openings depict an emerging Early Industrial style prevalent in industrial and commercial buildings during the late 19th and early 20th Century. Commercial style buildings constructed during the 1930s and 1940s have large expanses of glass on the ground floor with minimal brick design, usually seen only at the cornice as a horizontal band at the top of the parapet wall. The relatively few Moderne structures built in the 1940s complete the typical commercial building styles found throughout this district.

The present courthouse (GVM-3), built in 1888, is the fourth located on the public square where the first log structure was originally built in 1824.

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**Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky**

Retaining most of its integrity, this massive two-story brick building has an octagonal clock tower, Italianate window hoods, and painted stone lintels.

The front portico serves as the main entrance to the courthouse. The most notable interior feature is an intricate iron stairway leading to the second story courtroom. The jail was added to the rear of the building in 1930. The building was remodeled in 1990 in a contemporary design that compliments the historic structure.

The Exchange Bank (GVM-10) opened in 1899 on the southwest corner of S. 7th Street and Broadway on the west side of courthouse. Occupying two brick buildings, the second floor windows have both segmental arches with keystones and flat arches. New glass storefronts and a canvas awning adjoining the two buildings has modified the front facade. Today, the building is being prepared for new occupants.

Three sides facing the court square are lined with Victorian-era commercial buildings ranging from one to five stories in height. Many of these buildings have similar details such as brick corbelling, arched windows, stone window lintels, and cast iron attic gates. Several first floor facades have been modernized, covering or eliminating their original character defining features.

A typical commercial building on the south side of the square is the Carter Brothers Building (GVM-64) dated 1898. This three-story brick building has a distinctive sheet-metal cornice at the top with the name "Carter Brothers 1898". Historically, this commercial building sold groceries, hardware, general merchandise, and men's suits from Dillon Manufacturing. Today, Andersons Fashion Center and Perkins Photography occupy the building.

In the southern part of the expanded district one-story commercial buildings are professional offices and retail spaces which represent the 1930s and 1940s Commercial style with large paned glass store front windows and flat parapet walls.

Between the 1950s and the 1970s storefront facades were typically altered in an attempt to modernize the building's appearance. Only minor modifications appear on some of the storefronts in the district, however, several second and third floor windows have been infilled with brick, covered with stucco, or enhanced with new shutters. A few mansard roofs have been added to second floor parapet walls that could possibly be removed at a later time. Although a majority of historic resources have been altered, their modifications do not destroy the district's overall historic appearance.

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**Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky**

**Integrity**

The Mayfield Downtown Commercial District expansion is being considered for nomination under National Register Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development. The district has been identified as an area that conveys a strong sense of its historic environment through its historic buildings, street grid pattern, lots, and transportation routes, portraying the development of the town from its creation in 1824 through 1945 when the last historic building was constructed. It has been determined that the integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, and design are the most important aspects necessary to convey the historical significance of this district.

The district is physically associated with the courthouse square, around which the entire business district is centered. The boundaries of the district are emphasized by the area outside of the district and the proposed expansion area. That area outside consists of vacant lots, the railroad track and residential buildings. The association of the historical pattern of development, coupled with the aesthetics of building design create a sense of the past.

The district conveys its historical appearance from the period 1824 to 1945 with each historic building as well as with historic additions or modifications. Later additions to historic resources proved to be compatible in design, scale, massing and materials. Only a few buildings were considerably altered to the extent that their original materials and design were no longer visible. Above the ground floor many buildings retained their character-defining features such as arched windows, hood molds, corbeled brick or pressed metal cornices, stepped parapets, rectangular, arched, or circular vents. These character defining features form a visual history of styles representing different periods of Mayfield's commercial history.

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**Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky**

**8. Statement of Significance**

Mayfield, Kentucky is historically and presently the social, governmental and commercial center of Graves County. Located in Jackson Purchase Region of Kentucky, Graves County is situated on the Tennessee state line. It is the 3rd and largest county in the region, covering 557 square miles, and the 75th in formation in the State. Created from Hickman County, Mayfield is located in an area of low rolling hills with fertile soil, river terraces, and bottomlands which provided good farmland for raising tobacco. Several major transportation routes bisect the downtown commercial district notably the Paducah & Louisville Railroad, U.S. 45 from Paducah to Fulton, and State Road 80. These transportation routes helped promote Mayfield's economic growth and development, making it well known tobacco town. With a 1990 population of 9,935, Mayfield continues to serve as a commercial and governmental center for the county.

The Mayfield Downtown Commercial District and that the area proposed to expand the district meet National Register Criterion A for association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns in the area of Mayfield's and Graves County history. The district reflects the effects of several key events in the town's history beginning with the creation of the public square in 1824, the arrival of the railroad in 1858, the establishment of the tobacco markets during the mid-1800s, the opening of two clothing mills providing jobs in 1860 and in 1899, the Civil War in 1864, the paving of roads in 1923 linking major transportation routes to other cities, the construction of a hospital in 1936 providing long term health care to the community, and the location and setting of commercial buildings in the downtown business district through 1945. The town underwent a gradual change in building types and styles as it developed into a major commercial center with textile industries and tobacco markets supporting its growth. In terms of Criterion A it is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development for the way the railroad, streets, lots, and buildings in the district document the establishment and development of a tobacco market and clothing manufacturing town from 1824 to 1945.

Expansion of the historic district is vital in understanding the history and development of Mayfield's downtown business district. This district reflects a strong sense of location, design, setting, and feeling through its appearance from the time it was created in 1824 through the 1940s. The layout of the grid street pattern with the courthouse square as the center of commerce and government is evidence of early town planning. Comprised of a cohesive group of historic commercial buildings that possess several qualities of integrity, it imparts the history of Mayfield through its built environment. Commercial buildings surrounding the courtsquare, dating from the late 1800s, document the thriving business district which continued to

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### Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

radiate outward from the center of town through the 1940s. The integrity of the district is enhanced by the close association these buildings have with each other in the downtown core displaying various periods of construction. The historic urban core is emphasized by these buildings being located side by side on narrow lots around the courthouse as opposed to the free standing structures on the outer edge of the district. Textile industries, located on the edge of the district on larger lots, allowed for building expansion which took place after 1900. The railroad, along the western edge of the district, State Road 80, and U.S. 45, serve as a continual reminder of early transportation systems that promoted the growth and development of Mayfield by providing corridors for transporting textiles and tobacco to other parts of the State and nation. These attributes support the nomination of Mayfield's Downtown Commercial District under National Register Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns in the area of Mayfield's and Graves County history.

The boundaries of this district have been revised and enlarged from the original nine block 1984 National Register District nomination through careful examination and survey of the commercial properties in the central business district. The enlarged district boundaries include a contiguous group of buildings with the highest degree of architectural integrity and historical significance which convey a sense of Mayfield's early community planning and development. The existing 1984 district boundaries included all contiguous commercial properties surrounding the Graves County Courthouse built prior to 1910. Since 1984, fourteen buildings have vanished and twenty-three more commercial buildings constructed between 1860 and 1945 are contributing.

The district was evaluated within the context of "Community Planning and Development in Mayfield, 1824-1945" which focuses on the significance of the diverse groups of commercial, industrial, religious, and residential resources in the district as related to the railroad, streets, lots, and public square on which they are located. This context is drawn from five sub-themes: Transportation, Commerce, Manufacturing, Religion, and Domestic Architecture which were developed as part of the survey of Mayfield, completed in 1995, and are included in the report "City of Mayfield Final Survey Summary Report" on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council in Frankfort, Kentucky.

**Historic Context:** "Community Planning and Development in Mayfield, 1924-1949".

The downtown area of Mayfield, Kentucky has been the governmental, social, and commercial center for Graves county since its creation in 1823 when Mayfield was designated the county seat, according to the Acts of the General

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## Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

Assembly. The earliest known settler, John Anderson, who migrated from South Carolina to Caldwell County - then to Mayfield in 1819, surveyed the town after the county was organized in 1824. The original plat consisted of 160 acres divided into 35 blocks, 72 lots. It included a public square with nine streets crossing each other at right angles, four running north-south and five running east-west. This type of grid system with a centrally located square is common in early town planning designs. The nine square block area that remains today consisted of the first homes, a tavern that also served as the first court room, mercantile establishments, and a slave auction block. Expansion of the current district boundary is necessary to encompass all of the early commercial buildings and residential structures that have been converted to commercial, professional, or retail space through the 1940s which continue to serve as a governmental, cultural, economic, and social center for the surrounding agricultural area.

By 1870 almost the entire business of the town was conducted at what is now Sixth and Broadway. The Graves County Courthouse (GVM-3) is historically and presently the center of commerce and government seat for Graves County. This prominent building is situated on the public square, a setting that is a typical sign of town planning throughout Kentucky.

By 1923, Broadway, the business district, and the streets surrounding the square were paved with brick while the other streets remained gravel. With the increase of automobiles, fifteen garages and repair shops were in business that year and half of them had car sales departments. Between 1925 and 1950, six Auto Sales and Service buildings as well as a garage and three filling stations in the downtown were in operation. In recent years two stations have been converted to business occupancy, two have been demolished, and two still retain their integrity.

Several banking institutions which supported economic growth and development opened before 1900 in downtown Mayfield. Two historic banks remain on the courtsquare emphasizing the importance of commerce and banking in downtown Mayfield since the late 1880s. One of the oldest surviving bank buildings is the First National Bank of Mayfield (GVM-16), established in 1875, is situated opposite the County Courthouse. This two-story, stone faced, Art Deco bank building was renovated in the 1930s incorporating large panes of glass on the principal facade. Most of its integrity remains on the west side and above the glass storefront. A fire consumed the buildings adjacent to the bank in the fall of 1990, drastically changing the historic appearance of courtsquare. Today, this vacant lot is now a mini-park.

Hotels and rooming houses were located adjacent to the court square, and still serve serving as a rest stop for travelers. The Hall Hotel (GVM-7), on the northwest corner of Broadway and N. 7th Street, is the only extant hotel.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
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in the downtown business district. Originally constructed as a three-story hotel in 1930, two additional floors were added to this five-story Classical Revival building, perhaps in response to the growth of Mayfield and Graves County. Graceful arched openings wrap around the corner at street level allowing light into the lobby, commercial areas, and restaurant. A distinct brick and stone band embellishes the cornice. This hotel has continued to serve the public for over 65 years.

The American Legion Memorial Building (GVM-15) built in 1930, was essential in downtown Mayfield since it provided an auditorium and community gathering place. This three-story, Classical Revival, brick building is accented with four granite pilasters on the front facade with the "American Legion Memorial Building" inscribed in the entablature. Remarkably, this was reported to be the first example of steel frame construction in Mayfield (Lon Carter Barton). One of the earliest movie theaters in Mayfield occupied the top floor, with a basketball court and audience gallery on the second level and meeting rooms on the ground floor. During the 1960s the theater was converted to a bowling alley. Today the building still serves the public by offering plays in the actors theatre on a regular basis.

Four active churches representing different denominations are evidence that religion was instrumental in the development of Mayfield. Many of the religious organizations were established during the 1800s. The earliest meetings were conducted in homes and other small, wood-frame buildings prior to constructing the buildings that remain today. Historically, churches were built near the center of town providing greater access to more people. The First Methodist Church (GVM-58), built between 1920 and 1921, is a stone Classical Revival structure. The First Baptist Church (GVM-57) was constructed in 1929 in the Gothic Revival style. Churches often move to larger areas of land when expansion is planned, however, the stone education annex connected to the main church building, which is compatible in materials and design, represents a conscious decision to remain close to the urban core. The First Christian Church #43 (GVM-172), built in 1906, has a raised circular dome 7 feet in diameter and small arched windows making this a unique Greek Revival structure unequalled in church design within the city. The First Presbyterian Church #38 (GVM-163), built in 1915, has arched lancet and stained glass windows enhancing this Gothic Revival church. These growing churches remain intact today.

Two health care facilities that have provided for the community's physical needs are located in this district. One of the earliest medical facilities in town is the Fuller-Gilliam Hospital, a pivotal building in the district located on the northeast corner of N. 6th and North Streets. Now known as Lourdes Hospice # 44 (GVM-78), it has remained in continuous operation since 1936. This private, two-story brick hospital, built of fire proof

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**Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky**

construction, has integrity of location, setting, and materials, although alterations have been made to the window openings.

In the early days mail was brought overland from Paducah before the railroad came through Mayfield. The Post Office (GVM-2), built in 1910 at 225 West Broadway, responded to the need for a larger, permanent structure replacing an earlier wood-frame structure. This Classical Revival structure has columns on both sides of the main arched entry and stone and brick detailing accenting the parapet wall. The interior has ionic columns and marble wainscoting. Population growth in Mayfield caused the expansion of the Post Office with two additions constructed between 1910 and 1935 similar in materials, style, and detailing.

Tobacco and textiles were the two major industries that made the most impact on the growth and development of Mayfield. Tobacco handling began as early as 1825 when settlers from middle Tennessee, south-central Kentucky, and Virginia purchased the fertile land surrounding the downtown area bring with them the skills needed to cultivate dark fire-cured tobacco. Business boomed in the 1840s when Mayfield became an important dark-fired tobacco market. Tobacco processing continued to be a major industry from the 1840s through the 1920s when Mayfield was a leading exporter of dark fire-cured tobacco in the nation. Tobacco warehouses, located along railroad track on the western edge of the district, were prevalent prior to 1880. This area, still comprised of warehouse structures, became known as "Tobaccotown". Today, Mayfield remains the only tobacco market in Kentucky to sell three types of tobacco - fire cured, air cured and burley.

Two of the largest factories producing clothing in the United States are located at opposite ends of the district: Mayfield Woolen Mills and Merit Manufacturing Company. Both manufacturing firms created jobs for the citizens in Mayfield and fostered community pride while promoting economic growth and business opportunities.

Mayfield Woolen Mills #30 (GVM-173), organized in April 1860, employed over 700 people, manufacturing pants from raw wool by 1923. The Early Industrial style facility grew from 8,488 square feet to 266,180 square feet and produced over 400 pairs of pants per hour that year. The architectural integrity of this two-story brick building remains intact. Mary Nell Industries, Inc., as the woolen mills is known today, finally closed in 1994 after 135 years of operation.

The other textile mill in Mayfield is the Merritt Manufacturing Company #26 (GVM-59) which was organized in 1899 by D. R. Merritt, a native of Graves County. The original sewing room began in an upstairs room on the west side of S. Fifth Street. This room was enlarged in 1900-01 when it was renamed

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### Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

the Merit Clothing Company. Since then, this three-story brick building has expanded across S. Fifth Street with an overhead cross walk. Although the name changed to the Dillon Manufacturing Company in 1985, it continues to manufacture and sell wholesale men's clothing today. Both of these textile mills made an important impact on the citizens of Mayfield, the State of Kentucky, and the nation.

This listed district and the area proposed for district expansion encompass approximately 45.38 acres and include portions of three major transportation routes. These routes played an important role in the growth of Mayfield's commercial and industrial development by transporting textiles and tobacco to other parts of the State and nation. Completion of the New Orleans & Ohio Railroad, now the Paducah & Louisville Railroad, in the mid-1850s boosted the town's growth. Paralleling the railroad track is U.S. 45 connecting Paducah to Fulton, also known as Seventh Street, which travels through the district. State Road 80, or Broadway, is the major east-west street which bisects the center of town. Broadway and Seventh Street were two of the earliest dirt roads that surrounded the courthouse providing access to the court house. In the 1920s, most of the roads were paved in the urban core providing better access for cars and trucks transporting people and goods. The commercial district expanded outward from the central core as a response to transportation ease. Today, these roads have numerous traffic lights to control the increased traffic flow.

Along the south side of Water Street between S. Sixth and S. Seventh Streets are several one-story commercial structures built during the 1930s and 1940s with large pane glass store front windows and parapet walls. These five contributing buildings in the newly expanded historic district retain their integrity of location, setting, design and association with the existing commercial district. Beyond this area are one- and two-story residential structures that have been converted to commercial use after the period of significance, 1945, intermixed with more recent commercial structures.

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National Park Service

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**INTERVIEWS**

The following interviews were conducted by Donna G. Logsdon in Mayfield, Kentucky between October 1993 and June 1995.

Apperson, Mary Kate (Telephone)  
Brown, Alicia 2/23/94, 5/25/94, & telephone  
Barton, Lon Carter, 420 South Seventh Street, in person & telephone  
Covington, Francis (Telephone)  
Roberts, Jeanette -(Telephone)  
Wells, Elizabeth 11/1/93 (Telephone)

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## Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

### 10. Verbal Boundary Description

The district is bounded by the properties located at these addresses:

105 W. North St.  
411 W. Broadway to 224 E. Broadway  
Northwest corner of W. South St. and S. Ninth St. to the southeast corner of E. South St. and S. Fifth St.  
Northwest corner of W. Water and S. 10th St. to the northeast corner of E. Water and S. Fifth St.  
200 block of S. 5th St.  
100 block of N. 6th St. to 304 S. 6th St.  
124 N. 7th St. to 302 S. 7th St.  
100 block of N. 8th St. to 214 S. 8th St.  
300 block of N. 9th St. to 124 S. 9th St.  
100 block of S. 10th St.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries of this district have been revised and enlarged from the original nine block 1984 National Register District nomination through careful examination and survey of the commercial properties in the central business district. The district boundaries were chosen to designate the most contiguous buildings with the highest degree of architectural integrity and historical significance while conveying a sense of Mayfield's early community planning and development.

The 1984 district boundaries included all contiguous commercial properties surrounding the Graves County Courthouse built prior to 1910. During the fall of 1990 a fire consumed six buildings on the north side of the 100 block of E. Broadway directly across from the Courthouse, GV-M-17 through GV-M-22. Six buildings on the east side of the 200 block of S. 6th Street are now gone, GV-M-37 through GV-M-42. Two buildings located on the southeast corner of W. Broadway and S. 8th Street have been demolished, GV-M-50 and GV-M-56.

District boundaries have been revised to include a contiguous group of commercial buildings constructed between 1860 and 1945. The eastern portion of the district includes #26 the Merit Manufacturing Co - Dillon Manufacturing (GV-M-59) built in 1899, and all of # 30, the Mayfield Woolen Mills - Mary Nell Industries, Inc. (GVM-173) built in 1860 which covers one-and-one-half blocks on the southwest edge of the district.

The area beyond the northern boundary was not included as those properties consist of buildings built after the historic period, are multi-family and single family residences, and vacant land. Beyond the eastern boundary are

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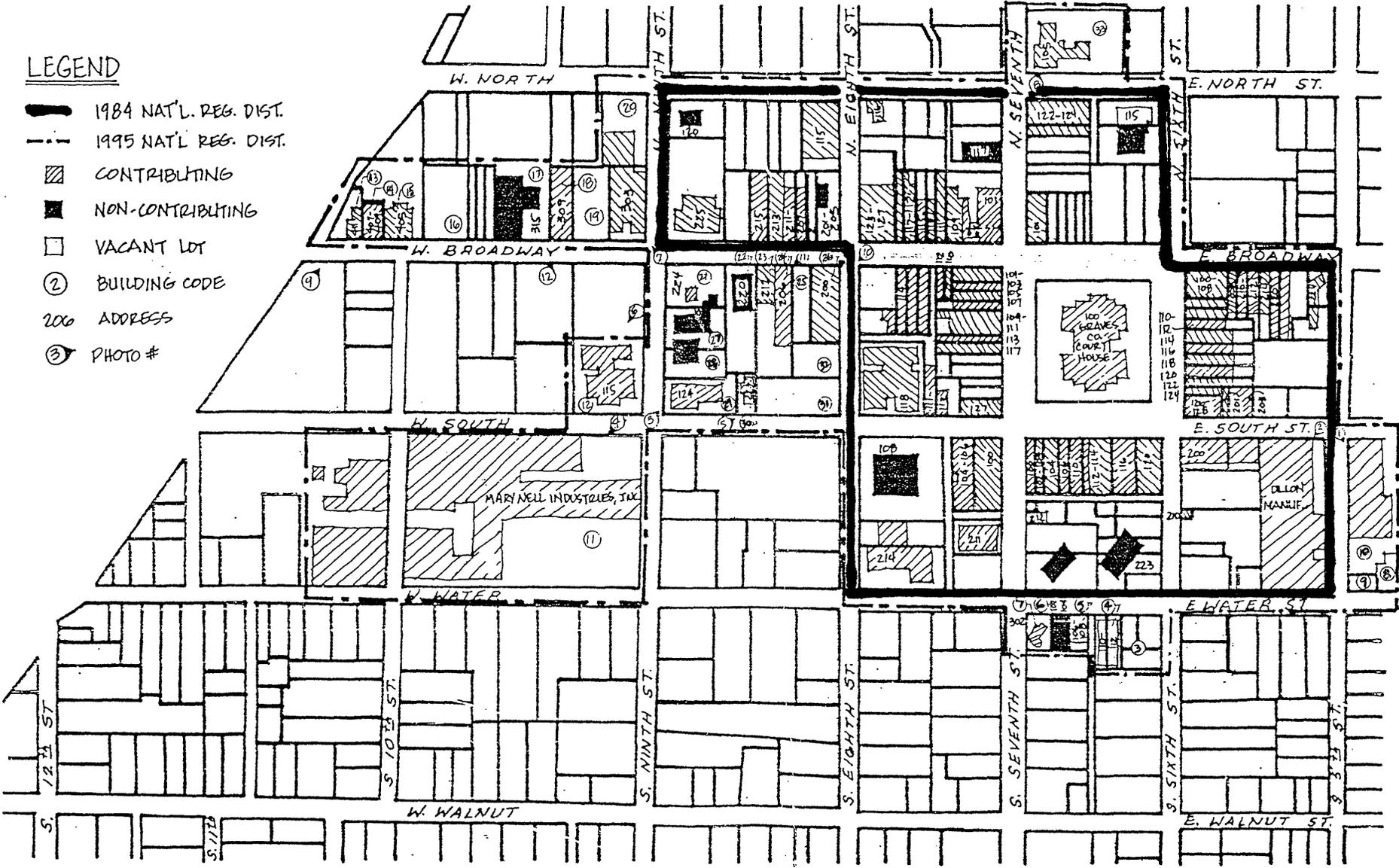
### Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

primarily non-historic resources including City Hall and commercial buildings which are surrounded by historic single family residences. Along the southern boundary is a high concentration of historic single family residences interspersed with a few non-historic commercial buildings. The railroad forms the distinct western boundary of the commercial district. Buildings beyond this area consists of non-historic lumberyards, warehouses, multi-family dwellings, and vacant land.

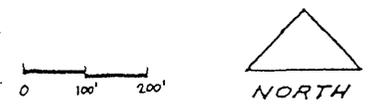
The decision was made to include the commercial buildings along the south side of Water Street between S. Sixth and S. Seventh Streets since they were built during the 1930s and 1940s and have the integrity of location, setting, design and association with the commercial district. Properties south of this area were not included since the majority of buildings were originally built as residences and have been converted to office or retail space after the period of significance, 1945.

# LEGEND

-  1984 NAT'L. REG. DIST.
-  1995 NAT'L. REG. DIST.
-  CONTRIBUTING
-  NON-CONTRIBUTING
-  VACANT LOT
-  BUILDING CODE
-  ADDRESS
-  PHOTO #



## MAYFIELD DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL DISTRICT



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Photographs Mayfield Downtown Commercial District, Graves County, Kentucky

The following information is the same for all photographs

3. Donna G. Logsdon
4. 2/95
5. Kentucky Heritage Council  
300 Washington Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Photograph # 1,2  
6. North west entry, north elevation  
E. SOUTH ST. & S. FIFTH ST.  
(MERIT CLOTHING CO.)  
DILLON MANUF. CO.

Photograph # 9  
6. South elevation, front  
405,407-409,411 W. BROADWAY ST.

Photograph # 3  
6. Southwest, front elevation  
124 S. 9TH ST.  
BOX OFFICE

Photograph # 10  
6. Northeast elevation, front  
202 W. BROADWAY  
MIDSTATES GLASS CO.

Photograph # 4  
6. North and west elevation  
325 W. WATER ST.  
MAYFIELD MANUFACTURING,  
MARY NELL INDUSTRIES, INC.

Photograph # 11  
6. Northeast elevation, front  
206 W. BROADWAY  
JERRY'S APPLIANCES

Photograph # 5  
6. Southwest elevation  
223 W. SOUTH ST. WALTER  
ALBRITTON RESIDENCE

Photograph # 12  
6. Southwest elevation, front  
309 W. BROADWAY ST.  
HARRELL BROS. HARDWARE

Photograph # 6  
6. Northeast elevation  
115 S. 9TH ST.  
1ST. CHRISTIAN CH.

Photograph # 7  
6. Southeast elevation  
303 W. BROADWAY ST.  
FIRST PRESB. CHURCH

Photograph # 8  
6. Southwest elevation, front  
105 E. NORTH ST.  
LOURDES HOSPICE,  
FULLER-GILLIAM HOSP.