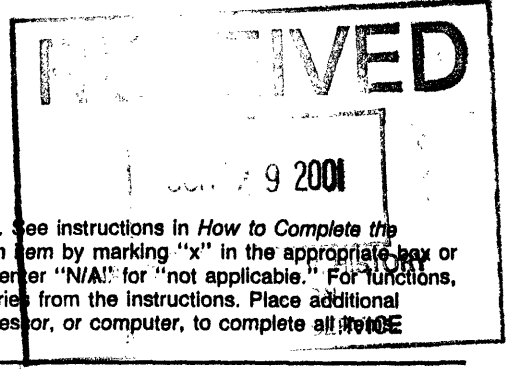


796

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Horse Cave Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number North and South sides of KY 218 roughly between US 31-W not for publication N/A
and Edwards Avenue.
city or town Horse Cave vicinity N/A
state Kentucky code KY county Hart code 099 zip code 42749

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, SHPO and Executive
Director, KHC 6-22-01
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
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:)
Signature of the Keeper Wilson R. Beall Date of Action 8/2/01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
45	8	buildings
3	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
49	8	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

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE/business
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- HEALTH CARE/medical business/office
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/theatre
- COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution
- COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
- GOVERNMENT/city hall

- COMMERCE/TRADE/business
- COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
- HEALTH CARE/clinic
- COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
- COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/theatre
- GOVERNMENT/city hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY
- AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: commercial
- NO STYLE

- foundation CONCRETE
- walls BRICK
- CONCRETE
- roof ASPHALT
- other STONE

Narrative Description

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

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1859-1952

Significant Dates

1859

1864

1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Horse Cave Historic District
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18.18 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) Horse Cave Quadrangle

1	16	5	9	16	9	16	10	4	1	1	5	3	1	1	0
Zone		Easting						Northing							
2	16	5	9	7	3	2	0	4	1	1	5	1	0	0	

3	16	5	9	17	3	2	10	4	1	1	5	0	4	0	
Zone		Easting						Northing							
4	16	5	9	7	0	1	0	4	1	1	4	8	6	0	

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(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 3/28/01

street & number P.O. Box 10 telephone 270-528-4698

city or town Hardyville state Kentucky zip code 42746

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 6,7 Page 1

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

6. Function or Use – continued

Historic Functions

GOVERNMENT/police station
GOVERNMENT/fire station
EDUCATION/library
COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE/
outdoor recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE/
monument/marker
LANDSCAPE/parking
LANDSCAPE/park
LANDSCAPE/natural feature
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)
GOVERNMENT/post office
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/
communications facility
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/
manufacturing facility
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
DOMESTIC/inn

Current Functions

GOVERNMENT/police station
GOVERNMENT/ fire station
EDUCATION/ library
RECREATION AND CULTURE/
theatre
RECREATION AND CULTURE/
outdoor recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE/
monument/marker
LANDSCAPE/parking
LANDSCAPE/park
LANDSCAPE/natural feature
TRANSPORTATION/road-
related (vehicular)
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

7. Description - continued

Architectural Classification

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic, Queen Anne,
Romanesque
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS:
Italian Renaissance, Colonial Revival
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTRUY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman
MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne, Art Deco

Materials

foundation: STONE

walls: METAL-Aluminum
WOOD- Weatherboard
SYNTHETICS - Vinyl
roof: SYNTHETICS – Rubber

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

Narrative Description

The **Horse Cave Historic District**, located in Hart County, Kentucky, is composed of 47 properties which contain 43 primary buildings, two secondary buildings, three sites and one object that contribute to the district's sense of place and time. The overall historic character of the district is strong despite the six primary buildings, and two secondary buildings that are non-contributing. Buildings designated as non-contributing were either altered to the extent that the majority of the original materials and character-defining features are no longer visible or the building is less than 50 years old. The total number of buildings in this district is 53 with one object and three sites. Except for the eight buildings that are non-contributing, the district still has much of the same appearance as it did at the end of the period of significance, in 1952. The **Horse Cave Historic District** is primarily comprised of one- and two-story brick buildings that were constructed between the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s on long narrow lots as a direct result of the cave that provided a source of shelter, drinking water, and electricity. The transformation of a buffalo trail into State Route 218, or Main Street, the construction of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and the relocation of U.S. 31-W that bisected the City Park, are major factors in the continued growth and development of Horse Cave because it promoted easy access and increased tourist visitation to this show cave town. The district covers 18.18 acres.

Horse Cave's Historic District Boundaries

The **Horse Cave Historic District**, in general, covers part of ten blocks containing 47 lots on the north and south sides of State Route 218, an early buffalo trace, east of U.S. Route 31-W, one of the major transportation routes in Hart County, Kentucky (See Figure 1). Specifically, the eastern boundary of the historic district begins at Edwards Avenue and includes all the properties on the south side that face East Main Street to U.S. 31-W. A portion of the western boundary includes one lot on the west side and three lots on the east side of U.S. 31-W south of State Route 218. The northern half of the district begins on East Main Street one lot east of Guthrie Street. Continuing westward, the district encompasses the next several blocks, extending across U.S. 31-W and the railroad tracks to Smith Street and north to Woodlawn Avenue. Historically, Horse Cave encompassed a one mile square area. The present historic district boundary includes a portion of the properties within that area and those originally platted in 1859 (See Figure 2). This cohesive group of buildings represents the period of significance from 1859 to 1952.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

Horse Cave Building Characteristics

The **Horse Cave Historic District** contains the most cohesive group of early commercial and residential buildings that formed the only town in Hart County that developed around a cave. Of the 47 properties in the district, there are 43 primary buildings, two secondary buildings, one object, and three sites that contribute to the district. Of the 43 contributing principal buildings, 3, or 7%, date between 1860 and 1900; 28, or 65%, date between 1901 and 1925; and 12, or 28%, date between 1926 and 1952, the end of the period of significance. Most of the contributing buildings are primarily one- and two-story brick commercial buildings with flat or low sloping roofs behind parapet walls on long narrow lots facing State Route 218 or East Main Street.

Estimated Date of Construction	# of primary buildings	% of primary buildings
1860 to 1900	3	7
1901-1925	28	65
1926-1950	12	28
Total	43	100

The majority of these buildings have remained intact for over 50 years and are exemplified by the fact that this cohesive collection of turn-of-the-century commercial buildings reflects elements from a variety of architectural styles. The most common aspect in this historic district is the abundance of character defining features that remain intact as well as original building materials such as brick, stone, concrete block and wood siding. Other building elements commonly found throughout the historic district include large storefront windows and a recessed entry on the ground floor with stone lintels and sills accentuating tall narrow windows on the upper floors.

Awnings or canopies extend over the concrete sidewalks sheltering pedestrians from the elements. A flat or stepped parapet wall is often enhanced by pressed tin or modillion dotted cornices, stone caps, or corbeled brick insets.

A few buildings that deviate from the traditional commercial appearance of row buildings include two warehouses along Higbee Street (HT-738) # 38 and (HT-878) # 39, one warehouse between Higbee and Guthrie Streets (HT- 742) # 46, and two wood-frame buildings that have remained intact since the mid-1800s, the Dr. Thomas House (HT-86) # 15 and Gorins Store (HT-94) # 24.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

Amidst these blocks of prominent commercial buildings are three historic sites, the L&N Park (HT- 876) # 25, that was bisected in the 1930s by U.S. 31-W, the historic stone pier entrance to Hidden River Cave (HT-874) # 20, and Hidden River Cave (HT-87) # 13, situated in a deep crevasse on the south side of East Main Street. The drinking water and electricity that this cave produced coupled with the Owens Hotel (HT-93) # 23 and the Annex (HT-875) # 22, situated along the Louisville and Nashville railroad tracks which parallels U.S. 31-W, reflects the reasons why Horse Cave has continued to prosper and growth as a cave town.

There are six primary buildings and two secondary buildings that are non-contributing. Of the six primary buildings, three historic buildings have been altered to the extent that the majority of their original materials and character-defining features are no longer visible, rendering them non-contributing. Three buildings, constructed after the period of significance, 1952, were not considered to be historically significant and therefore do not contribute to the historic district.

This district is distinguished from other towns in Hart County by the high density of closely related commercial buildings constructed around a cave opening; town development in close proximity to three major transportation routes, State Route 218, U.S. 31-W, and the L & N railroad; materials such as brick and wood; the workmanship displayed in the details including brick corbeling and brick insets in the parapet walls as well as stone sills and lintels; their association to each other, and the feeling they convey as a cohesive unit representing the period of significance from 1859 to 1952.

Integrity

The **Horse Cave Historic District** meets National Register Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development of cave towns in south central Kentucky. The district has been identified as an area that conveys a strong sense of its historic significance through its historic buildings and sites. The district reveals much information about the development of cave towns, from its earliest days to 1952 when the last historic building in the district was constructed.

The integrity factors which are vital in conveying the cave town identity and for evaluating their eligibility are **location, setting, design, materials, association and feeling**. This district is distinguished from other towns in Hart County by the high density of closely related buildings and their **location** in close proximity to U.S. 31-W and State Route 218; their urban **setting** adjacent to the L&N Railroad; the building

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

design in terms of scale, massing, and fenestration; materials such as brick, concrete block, stone and wood; the **association** of the buildings and sites with their identity as part of a cave town; and the **feeling** they convey as a cohesive unit representing the period of significance from 1860 to 1952.

The integrity of the entire district as supported by the 41 contributing properties, as determined by the criteria outlined below, is extremely high. Forty-one, or 87 %, are considered contributing properties. Of the six non-contributing properties, only three are occupied by buildings that were constructed after the period of significance, 1952. Three non-contributing properties contain buildings that have been altered to the extent that the original exterior materials are no longer visible, their openings have been infilled with new materials and new mansard roofs have changed their exterior appearance.

All of the historic buildings in the district have integrity of **location** since they have remained in the same place where they were originally constructed. Their **setting** provides an accurate picture of the historic character of a commercial cave town with commercial buildings situated around a cave.

Integrity of **design** in this district is fairly high. The majority of the buildings have maintained their original scale, massing, materials, patterns of fenestration and proportion. In relationship to cave towns, **design** relates to a series of commercial buildings that surround the cave that have retained their character defining features and continue to provide goods and services to a community.

Integrity of **materials** in the district is extremely high because the majority of building exteriors have retained their original materials and character defining features that reflect the period of significance. The appearance of the **Horse Cave Historic District** today conveys the **feeling** of a historic town that is rich in character that developed into a tourist destination because it was situated around a cave. **Horse Cave** also retains a high degree of integrity of **association** with the historical events that took place that enticed people to continue to reside here.

All 43 principal historic buildings, two secondary buildings, one object and three sites in the district have been reviewed using the criteria outlined below for evaluating the impact of alternatives on the integrity of design, feeling and association.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

Alterations

Common alterations to historic buildings generally fall into four categories: alterations to the exterior fabric including original wood weatherboard siding covered with vinyl or aluminum siding, or other non-historic materials; alterations to original window and/or door openings including the installation of new windows, infilling existing openings, or making new openings in the exterior walls; canopy or porch alterations involving the replacement of original elements such as columns or a new canopy; and additions to the building keeping in scale and using similar materials with the principal building.

In **Horse Cave**, for buildings meeting the terms of Criterion A, it has been determined that changes can generally exist in two or possibly even three of the four categories outlined above without compromising the overall integrity of **design** for the building. Many combinations exist based on the four typical alterations listed above.

The following factors were taken into consideration in evaluating the impact of alterations: the nature and extent of the alteration; when the alteration took place, and whether the alteration can be easily removed, reversed, or even should be considered a significant part of the history of the building. Alterations reflecting popular building trends, building code requirements, the number of buildings that have similar alterations, and the impact of the alteration on the overall character of the historic district was evaluated.

As early as the 1940s, vinyl and aluminum siding were promoted to cover building exteriors in the United States because it was believed to reduce maintenance costs over a long period of time since it did not require painting. Also, historic wood sash windows were often replaced with energy efficient aluminum windows and wood columns were replaced with metal pipe, ornamental iron, vinyl or aluminum pre-manufactured columns.

Of the 43 principal historic buildings in the district, 5, or 12 %, have little or no alterations; 26, or 60 %, have one alteration; 11, or 26 %, have two alterations; and 1, or 2 %, have three alterations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

Number of changes	# of primary buildings	% of total buildings
Little or no alteration	5	12
One alteration	26	60
Two alterations	11	26
Three alterations	1	2
Total	43	100

Examples of individual buildings displaying changes within the four categories are discussed below.

Buildings with little or no alterations

Two buildings retaining the highest degree of integrity in the district are the Telephone Exchange Building (HT-846) # 18 and Midway Café (HT-870) # 49. None of the exterior character-defining features of these buildings have been altered. The Telephone Exchange Building is a one-and-a-half-story brick T-plan bungalow with a hipped metal roof. Located on a prominent corner of the historic district, it is an excellent example of a building that has retained all of its character-defining features and has been well maintained over the years. The Midway Café is a two-story brick commercial building with large storefront windows, original transom lights and wood bulkheads that remain intact, a recessed entry and side entry, a horizontal canopy and multi-light metal casement windows on the second floor.

Buildings with one alteration

Two buildings with one alteration are Gorins Store (HT-94) # 24 and the Poynter Building (HT-84) # 17. Gorins Store is a one-story wood-frame, weatherboard sided commercial building that was constructed in 1875 adjacent to the Owens Hotel. Sheltered and somewhat hidden behind a row of trees, this building is situated along the L&N Railroad tracks. It displays a high degree of wood detailing at the central recessed entry doors that is unparalleled in the district. Wood shelves that line the walls inside remain intact in the front portion of this building that was once occupied by the store. In later years, a one-story addition was constructed to the rear using similar wood weatherboards. The Poynter Building, now occupied by the Horse Cave Theatre, has retained the large storefront windows, recessed entries, transom lights, stone lintels and sills at the second floor windows along the front facade that faces

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

East Main Street. The rear of the building has been slightly modified with a new window and two sets of doors that provide access to the theatre. These minimal alterations do not compromise the integrity of the building.

Buildings with two alterations

Two buildings that have two alterations are the Patterson Building or American Cave Museum (HT-847) # 12 and the Towns Hotel (HT-124) # 5. The Patterson Building has maintained its historic character-defining features along the front and side facades, however, in modifying this building to office space on the second floor, a large wall of glass windows has been installed on the rear facade allowing a high degree of visibility to view the visitors enjoying Hidden River Cave. Also, an elevator tower has been added to the side near the rear to provide handicap accessibility to all levels of the museum and the cave. This addition was constructed in scale with the Patterson Building and used similar colored brick, therefore, this addition does not compromise the overall integrity of the historic building.

Buildings with three alterations

One building that has three alterations is Branstetter Apartments (HT-852) # 1 which is located on the eastern corner of the historic district. This two-story brick building was constructed in the 1920s as a garage. Since that time, several openings on the east side of the building have been infilled with brick that is slightly recessed in the opening. This detail allows the original opening to remain visible. Second floor windows remain intact with stone sills. A small one-story addition has been constructed to the rear using similarly colored brick. The first-floor front facade has been slightly altered with the installation of wood paneling over the original wall with a small mansard roof within the recessed opening to signify its new use for worship services. Although these modifications have altered the exterior appearance, they can be removed and the original facade restored.

Non-contributing buildings

Examples of two buildings that have been altered to the extent they are no longer contributing are Fischer Auto Parts # 19 and the Medical Supply Building # 27. Fischer Auto Parts has been enlarged from its original form, brick veneer now covers the exterior, window openings have been infilled and a new mansard roof with recessed windows has been added altering the building to the extent that the original structure is no longer visible. The Medical Supply Building is a one-story brick

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

building that was built in 1932 as a gas station. All of the openings that been reduced in size and infilled with new glass windows and wood boards to the extent that the original openings are no longer visible. Also, a heavy mansard roof surrounds the entire building, rendering the building as non-contributing.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 10

**Horse Cave Historic District
List of Resources**

Hart County, Kentucky

Horse Cave Historic District															
Code	Address	Stories				Materials					Alter.		Date	Eval.	
		1	1.5	2	2.5	WD	BR	BV	CB	ST	Y	N		C	NC
1	217 E. Main St.			X			X				X		1923	X	
2	211 E. Main St.			X				X			X		1950	X	
3	209 E. Main St.	X						X				X	1960		X
4	207 E. Main St.			X			X				X		1922	X	
5	203 E. Main St.			X		X					X		1923	X	
6	201 E. Main St.		X					X				X	1960		X
7	141 E. Main St.	X						X			X		1920s	X	
8	139 E. Main St.		X					X			X		1920s	X	
9	135 E. Main St.			X					X		X		1923	X	
10	131 E. Main St.				X		X				X		1910	X	
11	131 E. Main St.				X	X	X				X		1930s	X	
12	119-123 E. Main	X			X		X				X		1931	X	
13	E. Main St.				S	I	T	E			X		1800s	X	
14	E. Main St.	X	O	B	J	E	C	T		X	X		1941	X	
15	E. Main St.			X		X					X		1860	X	
16	E. Main St.			X			X				X		1911	X	
17	103 E. Main St.			X			X				X		1911	X	
18	101 E. Main St.		X					X				X	1905	X	
19	103 S. Dixie Hwy		X					X			X		1930s		X
20	US 31-W				S	I	T	E		X		X	1930s	X	
21	106 US 31-W	X								X	X		1932	X	
22	US 31-W			X			X				X		1915	X	
23	US 31-W				X		X				X		1920s	X	
24	US 31-W	X			X						X		1875	X	
25	US 31-W				S	I	T	E				X	1800s	X	
26	105 N. Dixie Hwy	X					X				X		1938	X	
27	103 Water St.	X						X			X		1932		X

WD - WOOD FRAME, BR - BRICK, BV - BRICK VENEER, CB - CONCRETE BLOCK, CT - CLAY TILE, ST - STUCCO
Y - YES, N - NO, C - CONTRIBUTING, NC - NON-CONTRIBUTING

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 11

**Horse Cave Historic District
List of Resources**

Hart County, Kentucky

Horse Cave Historic District															
Code	Address	Stories				Materials					Alter.		Date	Eval.	
		1	1.5	2	2.5	WD	BR	BV	CB	ST	Y	N		C	NC
28	101 E. Main St.			X			X				X		1911	X	
29	103-105 Water			X			X				X		1911	X	
30	110 E. Main St.			X			X				X		1900s	X	
31	111-113 Water			X			X				X		1917	X	
32	115 Water St.				X		X				X		1923	X	
33	117 Water St.	X						X				X	1960		X
34	119 Water St.	X						X			X		1960		X
35	US 31-W	X						X				X	1924	X	
36	US 31-W			X			X				X		1911	X	
37	US 31-W				X			X				X	1947	X	
38	Higbee St.	X				X					X		1923	X	
39	Higbee St.	X				X					X		1952	X	
40	Higbee St.	X						X			X		1932	X	
41	108 E. Main St.			X			X				X		1900	X	
42	112 E. Main St.	X					X				X		1920	X	
43	E. Main St.			X			X				X		1920	X	
44	121 Woodlawn	X		X				X			X		1952	X	
45	106 Guthrie St.			X				X			X		1932	X	
46	Guthrie St.	X						X			X		1923	X	
47	E. Main St.			X			X			X	X		1920s	X	
48	120 E. Main St.	X								X	X		1920s	X	
49	E. Main St.			X			X					X	1930s	X	
50	225 E. Main St.			X			X				X		1920s	X	
51	225 E. Main St.	X						X			X		1920s	X	
52	E. Main St.			X			X				X		1911	X	
53	200 E. Main St.			X			X					X	1890	X	

WD - WOOD FRAME, BR - BRICK, BV - BRICK VENEER, CB - CONCRETE BLOCK, CT - CLAY TILE, ST - STUCCO
Y - YES, N - NO, C - CONTRIBUTING, NC - NON-CONTRIBUTING

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

8. Statement of Significance

The **Horse Cave Historic District** meets National Register Criterion A and is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development of show cave towns in the Mammoth Cave region because it reveals the history of town development around a cave in Hart County. The district is significant for the excellent way it reflects all of the key elements including the site of the county's only town development around a cave that remains open to the public, the establishment of a post office that continues to operate, as well as a cohesive group of historic resources on their original lots according to an early town map, and the development of a buffalo trace into a state highway.

Horse Cave's buildings and sites in this setting are extremely significant in the history of Community Planning and Development of how cave towns developed in the Mammoth Cave region. They provide excellent documentation and a valuable comparison to several other towns that developed around show caves during the same time period in the Mammoth Cave region: Kentucky Caverns; Mammoth Cave; Diamond Caverns; and Crystal Onyx Cave.

The following elements were used to compare Horse Cave with other show cave towns that developed during the same time period: the development of a town plan in relationship to a cave that was open for public tours; the cave producing drinking water and electricity; the town's location on a major transportation route; the construction of a railroad; the existence of hotels and/or boarding houses for visitors; the existence of a post office; a cohesive group of commercial and residential buildings that remain intact; and the continued viability of a show cave town despite adverse conditions such as fires and pollution. Therefore, the following framework, Community Planning and Development of show cave towns in the Mammoth Cave region, will discuss the development of four towns that grew around show caves in relationship with Horse Cave in order to establish its significance.

Architecturally, the district's distinct character is defined by the majority of one-and two-story brick commercial buildings with varying degrees of craftsmanship that remain intact. These buildings, as seen together with the matrix of streets, alleys, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

lots on which they are located, provide an exceptional picture of the development of Horse Cave from 1859, when the town was laid out, to 1952, when the last historic building in the district was constructed.

Community Planning and Development of show cave towns in the Mammoth Cave region

In order to establish the significance of Horse Cave with respect to Community Planning and Development of show cave towns in the Mammoth Cave region it is vitally important to discuss the use of caves, their location in the state of Kentucky, the development of show caves in the Mammoth Cave region beginning with the discovery of caves, the location of early settlements, a town survey, the establishment of a post office, the juxtaposition of commercial and residential buildings in relationship to transportation routes, and the town's continued growth despite adverse conditions.

While most of these elements are evident in the development of show cave towns, they offer excellent documentation of how Horse Cave was laid out and developed. They also provide a valuable comparison to four other show caves: Kentucky Caverns; Mammoth Cave; Diamond Caverns; and Crystal Onyx Cave which developed during the same time period as Horse Cave's Hidden River Cave.

Cave Uses

Throughout history, people have used caves for many purposes including shelter, storage, water, mining, electricity and learning about the environment. Saltpeter was also processed to make potassium nitrate, a key ingredient of gun powder (Currans, 1992: 176). Another early industrial use of caves was as a source of cave onyx or travertine. Onyx was in great demand in the late-1800s for interior decoration in buildings and carved figures. During the early-1960s, the Civil Defense Agency selected many United States caves as fallout shelters in case of a nuclear attack since most caves were able to hold at least 200 people. Because most caves have a constant temperature of around 52 degrees, they have been used to store produce, like apples and potatoes and to age cheese and alcoholic beverages. Some caves have been used to manufacture "moonshine" since the cave springs provided a ready source of water in which to cook the mash of corn, rye and barley malt. Spring water was then circulated around the cooker through copper tubes to cool and distill the liquor. Caves have also been used as underground farms to raise mushrooms, rhubarb and celery. Cheese makers used caves to store cheese during the aging process (Cave, 1994).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

At one time, people thought the cave air possessed some value in the cure of illnesses and during the mid-1800s, caves were used to try to cure respiratory diseases. Patients were housed in stone buildings during their treatment of tuberculosis in

Mammoth Cave. The most popular use of caves, however, is tourism. Tourists have enjoyed visiting commercial show caves in the United States since the early-1800s. Early visitors found cave exploration so fascinating that they were willing to crawl, crouch, duck, and scramble through long passages. Today, over 100 public caves in the United States are equipped with artificial light, some have elevator, restaurants, and tram systems, making caves more accessible to the public (Cave, 1994).

Caves in Kentucky

More than 40,000 caves are known to exist in the United States, with 15,000 caves located in Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri. Approximately twenty percent of the United States and forty percent of Kentucky are underlain by karstland. Karst areas are characterized by caves, springs, sinkholes and surface streams which disappear underground (Cave, 1994).

Kentucky has over 765 miles of surveyed passages in caves that are more than one mile long. The Flint-Mammoth-Roppel system in Edmonson, Hart and Barren counties is the longest cave in the world, with over 340 miles of surveyed passages. Hidden River Cave in Hart County at 19.5 miles long is one of four caves in Kentucky that are among the fifty longest caves in the world (Currens, 1992: 174).

So far, 87 out of 120 counties in Kentucky have recorded caves. Of the 3,765 caves recorded in Kentucky in 1981, 2,486 caves are located in the Pennyroyal region. Of the 30 counties in the Pennyroyal Region, nine counties have more than 100 recorded caves. The state's top five counties with the most caves are located in this region. Hart County is ranked fourth in the state with 207 recorded caves and is surpassed only by Breckinridge County with 425 caves, Hardin County with 297 caves, and Meade County with 212 caves (George, 1985).

Caves in the Mammoth Cave Region

The Mammoth Cave region refers to the Flint-Mammoth-Roppel system which covers Hart, Barren and Edmonson Counties. Within this area there are four caves that are a part of the National Cave Association: Kentucky Caverns; Mammoth Cave; Diamond Caverns; and Crystal Onyx Cave. These caves were developed as tourist attractions

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

during the same time period as Horse Cave's Hidden River Cave.

Kentucky Caverns

Kentucky Caverns, formerly known as Mammoth Onyx Cave, is located .25 miles east of Interstate 65 at exit 58 at a resort known as Kentucky Down Under. According to legend, the cave was discovered in 1799 by Martha Woodson. Historically, apples and potatoes were stored in this cave that provided a source of water. Although there was a great demand for the cave's onyx for industrial use in the late-1800s, none was taken from this cave. In 1921, the cave and original 26 acres was purchased by Dr. H.B. Thomas, a dentist, cave enthusiast and owner of the Hidden River Cave. Thomas opened the cave to the public and named it Mammoth Onyx Cave for the large formation inside. Visitors descended wooden steps into the sinkhole, the cave's natural opening, and electric light fueled by diesel power lit the roughly laid pathway.

The entrance used today was constructed in 1924. Dr. Thomas's daughter, Ruth T. Pohl and her husband Dr. E.R. Pohl, assumed responsibility of the cave in 1943 until Ruth's death in 1979 when the cave was passed to her nephew and sole heir William Thomas Austin and his wife Judy Austin. Although the cave was furnished with electricity in 1929, the system was updated in 1951. As of 1979, the cave is accessible to the public within Kentucky Down Under's 800 acre theme park that offers educational opportunities to view wildlife exhibits in a natural setting. Some of the animals are elk, bison, white tail deer, peafowl, birds, wallabies, emus, and Australian sheep ("A Cave," 1994).

Mammoth Cave

Mammoth Cave is located about thirty miles northeast of Bowling Green near Cave City at exit 53, just west of Interstate 65 on State Route 70 West. According to local legend, Mammoth Cave was discovered in the late-1700s by a Kentucky hunter. The cave property was first recorded in 1798 when a certificate was issued to Valentine Simmons with two saltpetre caves on 200 acres of land. In 1799, the land was surveyed and the cave was sold to John Flatt who sold the tract to the McLean brothers of Virginia (National Park Service, 1992; 605). Cabins were built in 1812 to house miners who were commercially mining saltpeter from the cave during the War of 1812 (Goode, 1986; 22). In 1837 or 1838 the cave and 2,000 acres were sold to Franklin Gorin of Glasgow. Gorin improved the road to the cave and built a log hotel. In 1839, Gorin sold the cave to Dr. John Croghan who received ownership of a slave Stephen Bishop who became a popular guide to Mammoth Cave in the 1840s and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

1850s when the tourist attraction blossomed. During the mid-1800s, a medical experiment was conducted inside the cave to find a cure for consumption (tuberculosis), however, no positive effects could be found (National Park Service, 1992; 606).

The log hotel Gorin built in 1837 accommodated 30 to 40 guests. In 1916, the log hotel and a row of cottages, built in 1832, burned down and in 1925 a new hotel was constructed on the site, however, the hotel was closed by the Park and was demolished in 1979 because it was a fire hazard. (Goode, 1986: 14).

In 1886, the Mammoth Cave Railroad opened. Two locomotives, two combination coaches and two passenger coaches traversed the 8.7 mile long route. After the railroad ceased to operate, buses with railroad-type wheels ran on the tracks. The line was bought by a group representing the Mammoth cave National Park Association in 1931, however, it was finally closed soon after. One of the locomotives, "Hercules," was stationed in the park (Goode, 1986: 15) until the late-1990s when it was moved to Cave City and is visible from Interstate 65.

In 1924, several Kentucky businessmen with the support of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, formed the Mammoth Cave National Park Association. The U.S. Congress passed legislation authorizing the creation of the park as a natural recreation area. In 1941, 48,000 acres had been acquired and Congress formally established Mammoth Cave as the nation's twenty-sixth national park. In 1961, the park was enlarged by the addition of two caves, Great Onyx and Floyd Collins Crystal Cave (National Park Service, 1992: 606). In 1981, the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior contributed to a new sewage treatment facility because pollution from Cave City, Park City and Horse Cave was getting into the underground water systems. Mammoth Cave National Park was formally dedicated as a World Heritage Site in 1982 (Goode, 1986: 61). Today, Mammoth Cave is still considered one of the greatest wonders of the world and is the largest cave ever discovered or explored (Kentucky, 1977: 72).

Diamond Caverns

Diamond Caverns is located within Diamond Caverns Resort on KY 255 at exit 48 off Interstate 65. Known as the "Gem of America's Caves," it is the only privately owned show cave inside the Mammoth Cave National Park. The cave opened for public tours in 1859, the year the L & N railroad was completed in this area. It was traditionally toured in conjunction with Mammoth Cave, however, it was a separate

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

attraction. In 1994, it was considered the 4th oldest show cave in the United States. The entrance to the cave is from the gift shop inside the Lodge with a restaurant, convenience store, health club, game room and two campgrounds with hook ups for RV and tent sites. Miniature golf, swimming pools, club house, fishing pond, basketball court, volleyball, and playground can also be found on the site.

Crystal Onyx Cave

Crystal Onyx Cave is located on KY 90 in Cave City at exit 53 of Interstate 65 within the wooded Crystal Onyx Campgrounds for tents and RVs with a gift shop atop historic Pruitt's Knob. The cave is open for tours but is a working archaeological site where ancient human remains, dating from approximately 680 B.C. are being studied by researchers from Washington University. The remains are not available for viewing. Rarely-seen cave dwelling species, such as blind cave crayfish, are one of the creatures that can be safely observed in the cave.

Analysis

Comparatively, of the five show caves in the Mammoth Cave Region, Horse Cave is similar to all four caves in that it is located near Interstate 65, it is situated on or adjacent to a major transportation corridor, the cave was historically used for shelter, food storage, mineral extraction or a source of water, and the cave presently remains open for public tours. Of the five caves, each has developed its own way to attract tourists: Kentucky Caverns is a privately owned park with wildlife animal exhibits known as Kentucky Down Under; Mammoth Cave is a National Park that concentrates on educational guided tours above and below the surface; Diamond Caverns and Crystal Onyx Cave are a privately owned parks with campgrounds; while Horse Cave became a city that developed around a cave that provides the public with educational tours about caves, karst and groundwater.

Four of the five show cave operators constructed hotels to accommodate visitors: Kentucky Caverns, Horse Cave, Mammoth Cave, and Diamond Caverns. An old wood-frame two-story hotel at Kentucky Caverns is still visible but is unoccupied. The 1930s Owens Hotel in Horse Cave has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance, however, plans to renovate the hotel are currently underway. Although two historic hotels at Mammoth Cave have vanished, a late-1960s lodge still accommodates guests and a recent lodge remains at the Crystal Onyx.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

In relationship to transportation, only two caves were served by railroad systems. The Louisville and Nashville railroad extended lines and built a depot in Horse Cave in 1859. Although the depot is gone, the train continues to travel through Horse Cave while the Mammoth Cave Railroad that opened in 1886 closed in the early-1930s. In comparison with the four other caves, only one, Hidden River Cave in Horse Cave, provided shelter, storage, drinking water and electricity and was situated adjacent to three major transportation corridors State Route 218, U.S. 31-W and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. Unlike the other caves, a one square mile town developed around Hidden River Cave due to its ability to provide both water and electricity and its close relationship to transportation with a railroad depot and hotel. This combination of factors set Horse Cave apart from the other caves in the Mammoth Cave region. Horse Cave has continued to grow and develop around Hidden River Cave which brings over 16,000 visitors a year to this town.

The Planning and Development of Horse Cave: 1859-1952

Hart County, located in the south central part of the state in the Pennyroyal region, was the sixty-first county to be formed on January 28, 1819 from portions of Hardin and Barren counties. Hart County is bordered by Edmonson, Grayson, Green, Larue, and Metcalfe counties. Covering 412 square miles, the county was named Nathaniel G.T. Hart (1784-1813) a Lexington lawyer and brother-in-law of Henry Clay, who was captured and killed by Indians at the Battle of the River Raisin (Kleber, 1992: 416).

Horse Cave, the largest city in Hart County, lies at the crossroads of State Route 218 and U.S. 31-W. Historically, Main Street developed along a buffalo trace and was known as Bear Wallow Road, then U.S. 68, and now State Route 218. In the early days, this pathway was used by merchants and farmers to transport their produce to the Horse Cave Depot. U.S. 31-W, formerly known as the old L&N turnpike, is a major north-south transportation route through Hart County. Today, this federal highway is currently being proposed as a Heritage Corridor by the National Park Service. Munfordville, the county seat, is located eight miles north of Horse Cave.

A key number of events affected Horse Cave's history including the settlement of Grinstead Valley in 1794, the formation of Hart County in 1819, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad constructed through town between 1857 and 1858, the town laid out in a grid pattern in 1859, the railroad depot constructed in 1860, the town incorporated in 1864, the town renamed Caverna in 1868, the name changed back to Horse Cave ten years later, a fire in 1911, the cave named Hidden River Cave open to

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

the public with steps and electric lights in 1916, U.S. 31-W rerouted through downtown between 1933 and 1935, the cave closed in 1943, Interstate 65 constructed nearby in 1969, Horse Cave Theatre opens in 1977, and the cave reopens in 1993. These key events are will be discussed as part of the historic context "The Planning and Development of Horse Cave: 1859-1952."

The valley was first settled in 1794 by Jesse Grinstead (Edwards, 1940: 97) and was primarily sparsely populated farmland until the 1850s when Major Albert Anderson of Barren County purchased 535 acres which is now Horse Cave and laid out the town with a one-hundred-foot linen measuring tape in 1859 (Edwards, 1940: 107). The Louisville & Nashville Rail Company began grading the track in the winter of 1857-1858 and laid ties in 1859 (Edwards, 1940: 106-110). Anderson donated the land for the L & N railroad depot in 1858 on the condition that the station would always be called Horse Cave, the largest cave in the middle of town, now known as Hidden River Cave. The post office was established on March 1, 1860 with a population of 82 (Rennick, 1987:145).

In 1864, the town was incorporated (Kleber, 1992: 442) and numerous hotels, eating houses, home, mills and general stores sprang up along this major transportation corridor. According to legend, the cave, town and railroad station were named Horse Cave because the cave's huge entrance suggested the adjective "horse" which historically referred to anything unusually large (Rennick, 1987: 145). Horse Cave grew slowly through the Civil War and mainly west of the railroad until a building boom occurred about 1868 (Edwards, 1940: 113). During the boom, in 1869, the residents changed the name to Caverna but ten years later, the name reverted back to Horse Cave (Rennick, 1987: 144-145). By 1870, the town had swelled to 470 and its growth was a direct result from its location on the mainline of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. Ten years later, the population was 800 with Horse Cave known as the shipping point for large quantities of tobacco, produce and livestock for a large section of the surrounding county. The town contained a weekly newspaper, a hotel, three flour mills, a bank, two churches and two schools. Exports consisted of primarily wheat, tobacco, livestock and fruit.

In 1886, Dr. George Alfred Thomas moved to Horse Cave to establish a dental office and bought the house next door to the cave, now known as the Dr. Thomas House (HT-86). One year later he purchased the cave from Major Albert Anderson and began developing the cave with his son Dr. H.B. Thomas. They installed a water pumping system that provided Horse Cave with drinking water. They also constructed one of Kentucky's first hydroelectric generators to power the lights in the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 9

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

cave and several downtown buildings. By 1892, he put in the second electric generator in a Kentucky town into operation in the cave. In 1905, Dr. H.B. Thomas assumed control of the cave upon his father's death and subsequently owned Floyd Collin's Crystal Cave and Kentucky Caverns. When the cave was opened to the public in 1916, steps were constructed down to the cave which was renamed Hidden River Cave. In the 1920s, there were six scheduled train stops in Horse Cave, three in the morning and three in the afternoon, which brought tourists to this cave destination. In the 1930s, U.S. 31-W was relocated through downtown Horse Cave parallel to the railroad and bisected the City Park. Since that time, the city limits have expanded to include industrial property south of town.

Hidden River Cave was shown commercially until 1943 when sewage and industrial waste seriously contaminated the cave stream. The pollution, combined with the impact of low visitation during World War II, the high costs of maintaining a river cave exhibition, and adverse effects of a "cave war" era lawsuit by the L & N Railroad, led to the closing of Hidden River Cave to tours ("A Cave", 1994).

In reaction to the pollution and cave closure, a domestic sewage treatment plant was constructed, however, this plant's wastewater was dumped into dry wells which fed water to the cave causing an odor in the town in the 1970s. A new sewage treatment plant was constructed and in 1989, the main source of sewage was eliminated and in 1993, the American Cave and Karst Center opened and has been offering tours inside the historic Patterson Building (HT-847) and Hidden River Cave (HT-87). Since the late-1970s, Horse Cave has become a major tourist destination because the Horse Cave Theatre that offers professional plays during the summer season and the American Cave Museum that provides exhibits and offers tours of Hidden River Cave year round have helped revitalize the downtown commercial district by encouraging heritage tourism and promoting the town's continued growth and development. Today, Horse Cave is the largest town in Hart County with a 1998 population of 2,800.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

9. Bibliography

Previous Research at the Kentucky Heritage Council

Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Forms for Hart County
Mammoth Cave National Park Historic Resource Study, 1990
National Register Nominations
Salts Cave Archaeological Site, Hart County, Ky., 1979.

Historical Maps

Horse Cave Property Identification Maps
U.S.G.S. Topographic Maps: 1966, Photorevised 1982
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps – Horse Cave: 1916, 1923, 1932-47.

Newspapers

The Hart County News-Herald

Hart County Courthouse

Deeds, Tax Cards, County and City maps

Secondary Resources

“A Cave Interpreter’s Handbook to Kentucky Caverns.” Kentucky Down Under,
Horse Cave, Kentucky 1994.
Atlas of Kentucky. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1977.
Cave and Karst Curriculum and Resource Guide American Cave Conservation
Association, Inc., 1994).
Currens, J.C. “Caves.” The Kentucky Encyclopedia. Lexington, Kentucky: The
University Press of Kentucky, 1992.
George, Angelo I. “Caves in Kentucky.” Caves and Karst in Kentucky. Special
Publication 12, Series XI, 1985.
Goode, Cecil E., World Wonder Saved. Mammoth Cave National Park Association,
Mammoth Cave, Kentucky: 1986.
Kentucky Treasure Trails, A Historical and Cultural Travel Guide. Kentucky
Extension Homemakers Association; 1977.
Clark, Thomas D. A History of Kentucky. Lexington, Kentucky: John Bradford Press,
1954.
Collins, Lewis. Historical Sketches of Kentucky. Cincinnati, Kentucky: 1847.
Davis, Virginia. A Glimpse of the Past A brief History of Hart County from
Settlement to 1930. Hart County: 1994.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 2

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

9. Bibliography – continued

- Gardiner, Florence Edwards, Cyrus Edwards' Stories of early Days. Louisville: The Standard Printing Company, Inc. 1940.
- Kleber, John E. The Kentucky Encyclopedia. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1992.
- Klotter, James C. Our Kentucky: A Study of the Bluegrass State. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1992.
- Lancaster, Clay. Antebellum Architecture of Kentucky. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1991.
- Lee, Lloyd G. A Brief History of Kentucky and Its Counties. Berea, Kentucky: Kentucky Imprints, 1981.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990.
- Macintire, William J. The Pioneer Log House in Kentucky. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1998.
- Martin, Charles E., "Cultural Landscape Study of the Pennyroyal Region", Frankfort: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1981.
- Montell, William Lynwood and Michael Lynn Morse. Kentucky Folk Architecture. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1976.
- Powell, Robert A. A Proud Heritage. Lexington, Kentucky: Powell Printing, 1992.
- Rennick, Robert M. Kentucky Place Names. Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1987.
- Rifkind, Carol. A Field Guide to American Architecture. New York: New American Library, 1980.
- Roth, Leland M. A Concise History of American Architecture. New York: Harper & Row, 1980.

Interviews:

Ann Matera
Tom Chaney

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

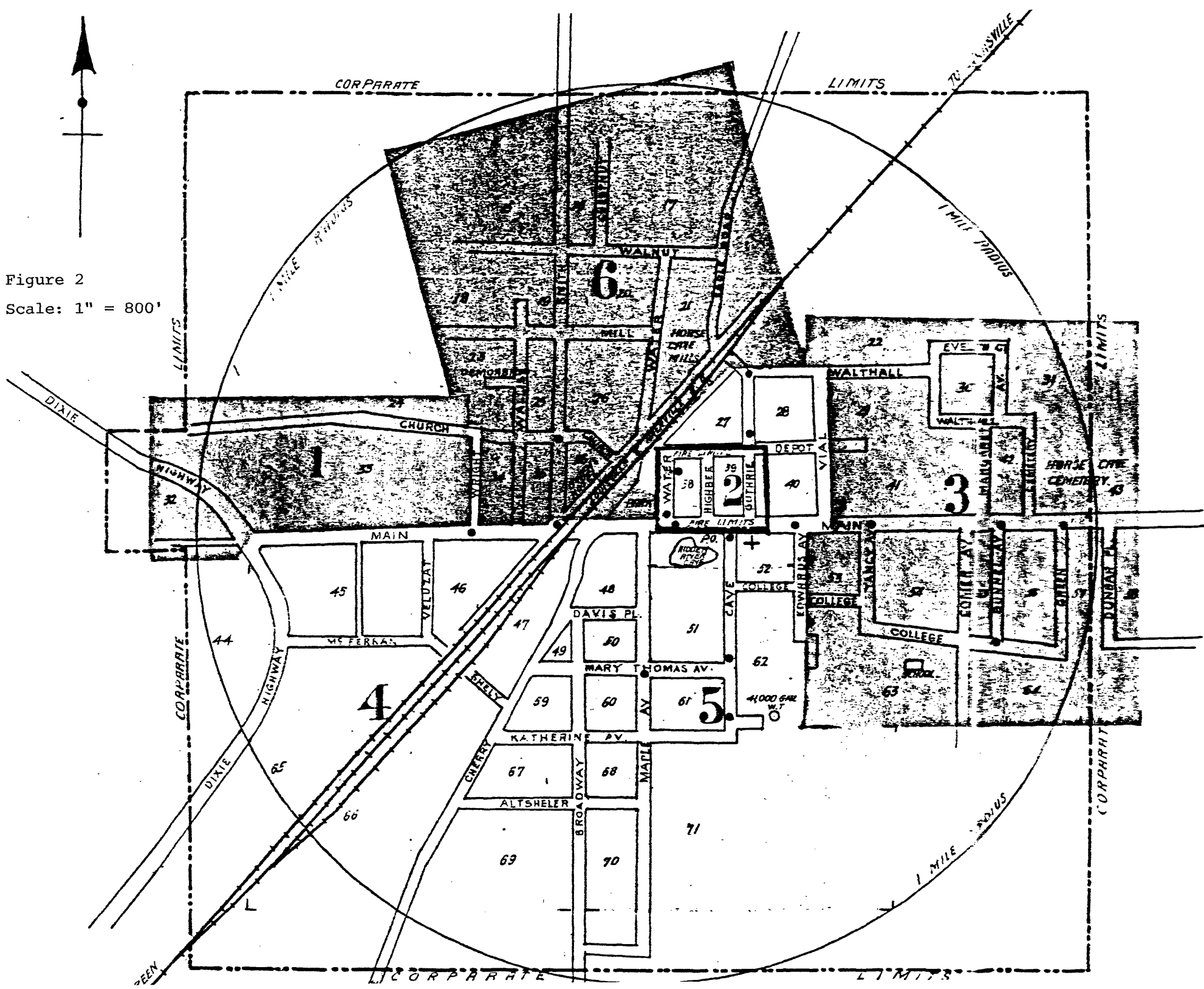
10. Verbal Boundary Description

Horse Cave's historic district boundaries are as follows: roughly bound on the north by Woodlawn Avenue and Church Street, on the east by Guthrie Street and Edwards Avenue, on the south by Mary Thomas Avenue, and on the west by Maple Street, U.S. 31-W and Smith Street. The district includes the following lots on Horse Cave Property Identification Map # 1 block 5, lot 14; block 7, lots 1, 1A, 1B; block 15, lot 2A; block 16, lots 1, 2, 3; block 17, lots 1-5; and Horse Cave Property Identification Map # 2 block 14, lots 3, 3.01; block 15, lots 1-6, 6.01, 7-8; block 14, lots 1-4, 4.01, 5-12; block 16, lot 7; block 17, lots 7-15. See attached map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Horse Cave historic district were chosen to designate the most contiguous group of commercial buildings and the historic cave entrance within the corporate city limits of Horse Cave displaying the highest degree of integrity representing the period of significance from 1859 to 1952. Lots situated along the edge of the district were not included because they were either built after the period of significance or were primarily residential buildings that would be part of another historic district.

Figure 2
Scale: 1" = 800'



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page 1

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs

3. Donna G. Logsdon
4. 3/01
5. Kentucky Heritage Council
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Photograph # 1

6. North (front) façade of
HT-853, # 1
Branstetter Apartments

Photograph # 2

6. North (front) façade of
HT-124, # 5
Towns Hotel

Photograph # 3

6. North (front) façade of
HT-873, #7
Kane Building

Photograph # 4

6. North (front) façade of
HT-850, # 8
Branstetter Hardware, Inc.

Photograph # 5

6. North (front) façade of
HT- 849, # 9
Western Auto Building

Photograph # 6

6. North (front) façade of
HT-92, # 10
First National Bank

Photograph # 7

6. North (front) façade of
HT-848, # 11
Austin Building

Photograph # 8

6. North (front) façade of
HT-847, # 12
Patterson Building

Photograph # 9

6. North side of rear wall
HT-87A, # 14
Wall of old cave office

Photograph # 10

6. South cave entrance
HT-86, # 15
Hidden River Cave

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page 2

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs

3. Donna G. Logsdon
4. 3/01
5. Kentucky Heritage Council
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Photograph # 11

6. North (front) façade of
HT-86, # 15
Dr. Thomas House

Photograph # 12

6. North (front) façade of
HT-85, # 16
H.B. Thomas Opera House

Photograph # 13

6. North (front) façade of
HT-84, # 17
Poynter Building

Photograph # 14

6. North (front) façade of
HT-846, # 18
Telephone Exchange Building

Photograph # 15

6. East (Front) façade of
HT-839, # 21
Cave Office

Photograph # 16

6. East (front) façade of
HT-875, # 22
Owens Hotel Annex

Photograph # 17

6. East (front) façade of
HT-93, # 23
Owens Hotel

Photograph # 18

6. East (front) façade of
HT-934, # 24
Gorins Store

Photograph # 19

6. Looking north
HT-876, # 25
City Park

Photograph # 20

6. North (side) façade of
HT-605, # 26
Hartland Realty & Auction

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page 3

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs

3. Donna G. Logsdon
4. 3/01
5. Kentucky Heritage Council
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Photograph # 21

6. West (front) façade of
HT-83, # 28
Pierce Building

Photograph # 22

6. West (front) façade of
HT-83, # 29
Russell Building

Photograph # 23

6. West (front) façade of
HT-89, # 30
Dollar General Store

Photograph # 24

6. West (front) façade of
HT-607, # 31
The Bookstore

Photograph # 25

6. West (front) façade of
HT-606, # 32
Smith Apartments

Photograph # 26

6. West (front) façade of
HT-82, # 36
Midway Building

Photograph # 27

6. North (Front) façade of
HT-82, # 37
L.S. Cherry Building

Photograph # 28

6. South (front) façade of
HT-88, # 41, HT- 89, # 30
Neville Building, Dollar General Stores

Photograph # 29

6. South (front) façade of
HT-90, # 42
Superior Cleaners

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page 4

Horse Cave Historic District

Hart County, Kentucky

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs

3. Donna G. Logsdon
4. 3/01
5. Kentucky Heritage Council
300 Washington Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Photograph # 30

6. South (front) façade of
HT-90, # 43
Dorsey Drug Building

Photograph # 35

6. South (front) façade of
HT-867, # 52
Branstetter Furniture Building

Photograph # 31

6. North (front) façade of
HT-879, # 44
Horse Cave City Hall, Public
Library and Fire Department

Photograph # 36

6. South (front) façade of
HT-866, # 53
Louisville Store Building

Photograph # 32

6. East (front) façade of
HT-888, # 45
Payton Building

Photograph # 33

6. South (front) façade of
HT-91, # 47
Horse Cave State Bank Building

Photograph # 34

6. South (front) façade of
HT-870, # 49
Midway Cafe