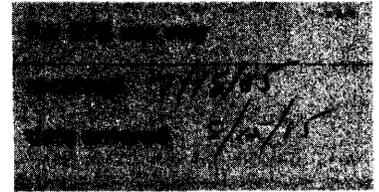


United States Department of the Interior
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Greenville Commercial Historic District

Description:

Location: Along the 100 blocks of North Main Street and East Main Cross Street in Greenville, Kentucky.

Owner: Multiple

Classification: District

The Greenville Commercial District is located along North Main and East Main Cross Streets at the northwest corner of Greenville's downtown square. The district includes the best remaining concentration of historic architecture in the downtown area. The majority of buildings were constructed between 1870 and 1920 and were built in the Italianate and Vernacular styles. All of the properties are utilized by commercial establishments. The district is surrounded by modern and altered buildings and open parking lots.

Within the district are thirteen buildings of which ten are contributive to the district. The three intrusions are a ca. 1910 building with a new metal facade, a 1947 building with a glazed brick facade and a frame and brick building currently under construction. Many of the original buildings have had their storefronts altered but retain their original upper facade detailing. Buildings in the district have contained some of the more notable businesses of the city and it is the largest concentration of historic commercial architecture in Greenville.

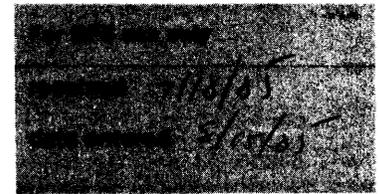
Acreage: Approximately 1.5 acre.

Verbal Boundary Description: The Greenville Commercial District is designated on the accompanying Greenville tax maps. Property encompassed by the district includes: Block 1, lots 9-19; Block 8, lots 9-12, Block 9, lot 1.

UTM References: A. 16/484115/4117100 B. 16/484100/4116990 C. 16/484145/41169450 D. 16/484180/4117000 E. 16/484160/4117045.

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Greenville Commercial District

Statement of Significance:

The Greenville Commercial District contains a cohesive grouping of late 19th and early 20th century commercial architecture in downtown Greenville. This row of buildings fronts on East Main Cross and North Main Street. Prior to 1870 this area consisted of one-story frame and brick commercial structures and a two-story hotel. No pre-Civil War buildings survive and all of the existing buildings were constructed after the building boom of the 1870s. Within the boundaries of the district are thirteen buildings of which ten are contributive.

The oldest buildings in the district are the Italianate style brick buildings at 115 North Main and 101 East Main Cross. These buildings were constructed in the 1870s and display sheet metal hood molding and other decorative features. Another important building is the First National Bank Building at 102 East Main Cross which is a highly decorative building in the Beaux-Arts tradition. A fine pressed metal facade is found on the building at 121-123 North Main. This building was completed in 1901 and displays metal engaged columns and other classical designs. Another noteworthy building is located at 109-113 North Main built ca. 1910 with a high pitched roofline and gable dormer windows. In addition to these buildings there are a number of vernacular styles of the early 20th century which have not been altered.

These buildings have contained a number of noted Greenville businesses. The First National Bank was one of the major banks of the county during the 20th century. At 115 North Main the "Greenville Record" newspaper was published on the second floor from 1899 to 1939. This building and other adjacent structures were built by the Roark family which were prominent merchants. At 121 North Main was the Palace Theater which was operated until the 1970s. The Odd Fellows have continually occupied the building at 103 East Main Cross for their meetings since 1906. Today these buildings continue to be occupied by commercial businesses which are important in Greenville's commerce.

Since the 1940s there has not been any new construction in the district until this past year. The old Muhlenberg Bank Building at 101 North Main Street was recently condemned and demolished with new structures being erected on its site. With this exception there has not been any major alteration to the district in recent years.

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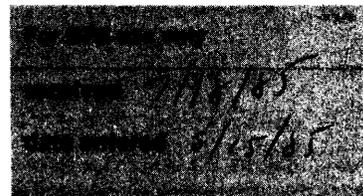
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Greenville Commercial District - Individual Property Descriptions

Properties Contributing to the Character of the District

1. 129 North Main Street: This two-story brick building was constructed ca. 1900. The main elevation has been covered with stucco. The building has retained much of its original storefront including cast iron pilasters and display windows. On the upper floor are one-over-one sash windows.
2. 127 North Main Street: Constructed ca. 1925, this one-story brick building has been altered on the storefront. On the upper facade is decorative brick soldier coursing with stone inset panels.
3. 125 North Main Street: Constructed ca. 1920, this one-story brick building was originally used as an early car garage. The original storefront has been replaced with a new metal and glass design. On the upper facade is decorative glazed brick laid in soldier course and diagonal brick patterns. There are also three inset brick panels laid in a decorative header bond pattern.
4. 121-123 North Main Street: Built in 1901 this two-story brick building displays a metal facade with classical decoration. The storefront has been altered on both sections. On the upper facade is a pressed metal facade with engaged Doric columns, rusticated block finish and garland and swag designs. At the roofline is a projecting metal cornice. The 121 section contains a theatre on the first floor which was known as both the Queen and the Palace Theatres. On the upper floors were originally apartments and these rooms are still visible over the 123 storefront.
6. 115 North Main Street: This Italianate style structure was built ca. 1875 by the Roark family for their furniture business. The storefront was remodeled ca. 1910 with a new recessed entrance and metal canopy. On the upper facade the building features one-over-one sash windows with metal hood molding and decorative keystones. Above the windows are inset terra cotta panels. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice with a modillion block design.
7. 109-113 North Main Street: This commercial building was also constructed by the Roark family ca. 1910. The storefronts on both sections of the building have been altered, although original Luxfer glass panels are intact over the 113 storefront. On the second floor are one-over-one sash windows beneath an extended roof eave. The roof eave is supported by large brackets. At the corners of the building on the second story are brick quoins. The third floor displays a steeply pitched roof with three gable dormers with multi-light casement windows. On the interior of the upper floor are numerous skylights.
9. 101 East Main Cross: Built in 1872 this three-story brick building is the oldest structure in the district. The first floor level on both the west and south

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elevations have been altered. The storefront facing East Main Cross was altered ca. 1930 and displays Art Deco elements in the zig zag frieze band and fluted piers. On the upper facade are one-over-one sash windows with pedimented hood molding. The building's original cornice has been removed.

10. 103 East Main Cross: The Odd Fellows Hall was constructed in 1906 and is a three story vernacular building. The storefront on the building has been altered. On the upper facade are one-over-one sash windows with stone lintels. At the roofline is a decorative corbelled brick cornice. The building was constructed by J.L. Rogers and the third floor is still used by the Odd Fellows as a meeting hall.

11. 102 East Main Cross: The First National Bank Building was constructed in 1894 showing Beaux-Arts influences. The bank was organized in 1890 by some of Greenville's leading citizens such as William Wickliffe and Rufus Martin. The bank building has not been significantly altered and features large one-over-one sash windows on the first floor. Also present on the first floor are brick Doric pilasters. Dividing the first and second stories is a terra cotta belt course. The second floor also features one-over-one sash windows separated by Doric pilasters. Above the central windows are large rounded arches with inset terra cotta decoration. Over other windows are terra cotta cartouches of classical design. At the roofline is a terra cotta cornice with acanthus leaf brackets and diamond patterned brick bonding.

12. 106 North Main Street: This two-story brick building was constructed in 1907 and occupied by the Martin Dry Goods Company. This company was one of the leading mercantile establishments in the downtown area in the early 20th century. The storefront has been altered with a cast iron pilaster and Luxfer glass transom still visible. On the second floor are altered one-over-one sash windows. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice.

Properties Non-Contributing to the District:

5. 117 North Main Street: This ca. 1890 building has been altered with the addition of new metal front.

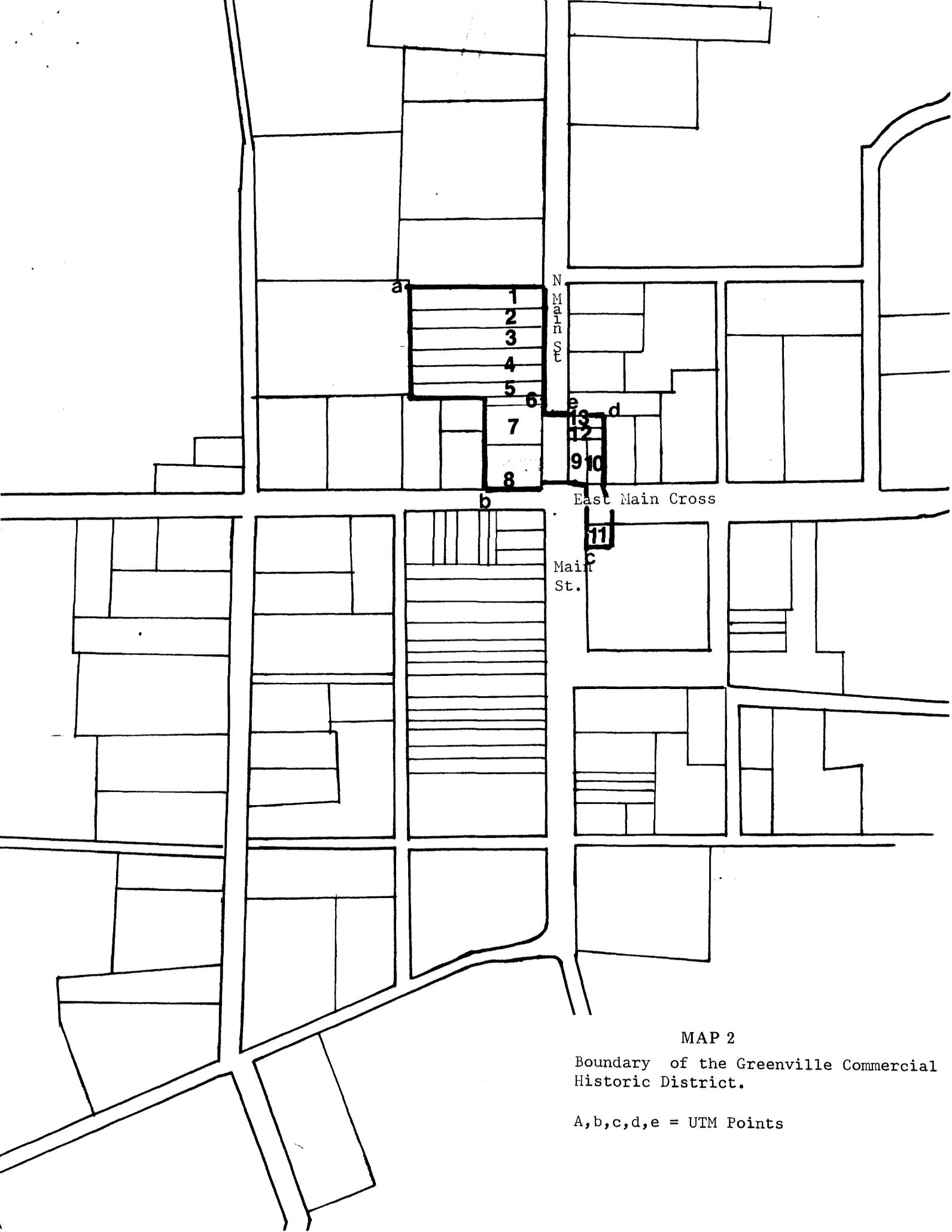
8. 101-109 North Main Street: Until November of 1984 this corner was occupied by the old Muhlenberg Bank Building constructed in 1903. In early 1984 a rear section of this building collapsed and the building was condemned and demolished in November. New construction is presently underway on the site.

13. 108 North Main Street: The front of this two-story building was added by contractor W.C. Malone in 1947. The upper facade is unusual and is constructed of clear structural glass blocks and blue glazed brick. The glazed brick is laid in both soldier and sailor courses along with a rectangular border of structural blocks. The storefront on the building has been altered and on the upper floor are two one-over-one sash windows.

Map Showing Direction of Photographs & Location of Contributing & Non-contributing Properties

MAP 1





MAP 2

Boundary of the Greenville Commercial
Historic District.

A,b,c,d,e = UTM Points



The boundary of the Greenville Commercial District is shown as the dotted line. It conforms to the verbal boundary description.

7/18/85