

1975

OCT 13 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Henderson Commercial District

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number Blocks near the crossing of Main and First Streets NA  not for publication  
city, town Henderson NA  vicinity  
state Kentucky code KY county Henderson code 101 zip code 40202

3. Classification

Ownership of Property		Category of Property		Number of Resources within Property	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private		<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		<u>68</u>	<u>17</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district			<u>5</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State		<input type="checkbox"/> site			structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal		<input type="checkbox"/> structure			objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>68</u>	<u>22</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan  
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer Date Oct. 6, 1989  
Kentucky Heritage Council  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

Alvora Bryan Entered in the National Register 11/13/89  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business  
/financial institution  
/specialty store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business  
/financial institution  
/specialty store

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls BRICK  
METAL/steel  
roof ASPHALT  
other TERRA COTTA

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE  
ECONOMICS

Period of Significance

1865-1940  
1865-1940  
1865-1940

Significant Dates

Ca. 1865

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approximately 19

### UTM References

A 

1	6	4	4	8	1	4	0	4	1	8	8	1	1	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

1	6	4	4	8	1	4	0	4	1	8	7	7	6	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

1	6	4	4	7	8	5	0	4	1	8	7	9	4	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

1	6	4	4	7	8	4	0	4	1	8	8	1	5	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

E: 1 6      4 4 8 0 5 0      4 1 8 8 2 1 0

See continuation sheet

Henderson KY.-IND. Quad

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Henderson Commercial District follow the line indicated on the accompanying scaled city map.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The properties included in the Henderson Commercial District are those that best express the historical and architectural history of the town's central business district and have maintained the majority of their historical integrity.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine Amos

organization Downtown Henderson

street & number Route 5 Box 365

city or town Shelbyville

date July 20, 1989

telephone 502-633-5530

state Kentucky zip code 40065

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 1

Henderson, Kentucky is the county seat of Henderson County, located in the Pennyryle Region of Western Kentucky on the south shore of the Ohio River, opposite Evansville, Indiana. The town has been served by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad since 1867 and is located along U.S. Highway 41, a north-south connector between Vincennes, Indiana and Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Since its founding in the late 1790's, the town has prospered as a major regional commercial, transportational, and manufacturing center, owing to a strategic location on the river, its status as a county seat, a prosperous regional agriculture, and the 19th century establishment of L & N Railroad machine shops in the town. The Henderson Commercial District encompasses parts of five downtown streets that contain the majority of the town's historic commercial properties. The area includes properties addressing portions of Main, First, Second, Third, Elm and Green Streets, and contains a density of commercial buildings dating from 1865 through 1940 that physically express the evolution of Henderson's commerce over seventy-five years. The District contains the core of a viable, diversified retail center, relatively few vacant lots, many properties with excellent physical integrity, and few properties built after the period of significance. One, two and three-story interpretations of Victorian-era styles such as the Italianate, Romanesque and eclectic predominate the architectural fabric of the Henderson Commercial District. A wealth of pressed metal commercial fronts adorn the upper facades of numerous properties. Buildings from the first quarter of the twentieth century are second in number to the Victorians. Both classically-inspired and modern vernacular facades add to the richness of the streetscape and refer to a healthy 20th century economy. The upper floors of most District properties have maintained very good integrity. The majority of upper floor alterations includes the removal of Victorian metal pediments and cornices, and the infill of original fenestration. Original street level facades have survived in far fewer instances, with the exchange of material and design for post WW II plate glass storefronts, non-historic materials, and the masking of transoms and other features behind solid panels and metal awnings.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 2

---

**The Antebellum Commercial District**

Prior to the Civil War, Henderson enjoyed a prosperous economy focused on river trade and transportation, dark-leaf tobacco processing, agricultural export, resource extraction (coal and salt), manufacturing, and wholesale and retail commerce. The town was platted with Water, Main, Elm and Green Streets parallel to the river and a business district with cross streets of First through Fifth terminating at the public wharf. Henderson's surveyors wisely provided 100' widths for these early streets, adequate space to turn a team of horses and wagon.

Water Street, the heart of early manufacturing and industry contained such notable buildings as John James Audubon's four-and-one-half story steam sawmill and gristmill, as well as numerous warehouses for tobacco, hides, produce, and other goods, taverns and inns. Main Street, one block inland, early became the nucleus of retail and wholesale commercial activity. Cross streets connecting Water and Main contained tobacco stemmeries, boarding houses, blacksmiths, boatwrights, and small manufactures. Elm and Green Streets, east of Main, also contained hotels, rooming houses, and restaurants, but commerce tended to an agricultural focus in this area with stores selling hardware, implements, feed, seed, and wagons. Today, the physical survivors of Henderson's antebellum commerce are the street patterns and names, and the area patterns of varied commercial activity. Historic photographs of early commercial properties illustrate a variety of vernacular and Greek Revival frame and brick properties, but none of those antebellum examples survive in the Commercial District with intact physical integrity.

**Post Civil War Growth and Building**

A lack of routine maintenance, wholesale neglect, and overuse of private and public buildings and improvements during the war years left downtown Henderson in poor condition by 1865. Yet, soon after hostilities ceased, Henderson's business and municipal sectors undertook major building and improvement efforts. The physical layout of the commercial area became more regulated as to character, function, and appearance, a transition experienced in other Trans-Allegheny towns. The wharf remained the focus of

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 3

---

wholesale trade, warehousing, and manufacturing, and the establishment of railroad transportation reinforced that physical configuration. Between Main Street and the river were the Henderson Woolen Mills complex, with a two-story brick building housing weaving, finishing, carding and spinning and a two-story, iron-clad "jeans pants manufactory"; two-and two-and-one-half story frame boarding houses and tenements; several tobacco warehouses; and, along Second Street, the Black commercial district, described on Sanborn Maps with buildings of "canvas stretched on studding". It was an area of fundamentally masculine business interest that included a photo gallery, gun and locksmith, shooting gallery, saloons, a feed store, harness shop, wholesale liquors, and cigars, a stove and tinware store, and several tenements in 1892. The complexion of this area was strongly set, as twentieth century rebuilding located many automotive-related businesses in this area.

Inland, the retail commercial district retained a more refined appearance enhanced by municipal improvements such as the building of sidewalks and installation of street lights. During the 1890's this area was densely packed with two- and three-story buildings containing retail businesses, service industries, civic and social houses and hotels. This type of mixed commercial use has continued in the area through the present.

The most popular and one of the earliest recognizable stylistic influences in the Henderson Commercial District is the Italianate, followed by a variety of eclectic facades that punctuate the streetscape throughout the District. Victorian-era commercial architecture contained a robust design palette for enriched and varied windows, pedimented cornices, arcaded storefronts, broken or symmetrical facades and diversity of surface materials. The richness of the Italianate, Romanesque, Queen Anne and many eclectic forms well represented the commercial prosperity that Henderson enjoyed following the War. Some of the more exuberant facades include He-H 33 (130 North Main) the 1883 Planter's State Bank, a castellated, asymmetrical stone front with a variety of window styles and stone balconies; He-H 35 (114 North Main) a circa 1890 retail store with an intricate Romanesque facade that features terra cotta ornament and molded brick detail; He-H 11 (308-314 First Street) the Becker Block, a late 19th Century Eclectic with molded brick

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 4

---

arches defining each of four storefront bays, terra cotta belting and stone detailing; and He-H 17 (223 Second Street) a circa 1890, two-and-one-half-story with an elaborate, stone, stepped pediment with carved stone panels, arch-headed windows (now infilled) with stone architraves and finely molded brickwork.

In addition to these Victorians are a multitude of contemporary buildings with decorative metal elements and sometimes, entire metal facades. The majority of Henderson's metal fronts originated across the Ohio River in Evansville, Indiana at the George L. Mesker & Company, steel storefront manufactory. Old Henderson Homes and Buildings identifies forty-nine properties with Mesker components. Only a few of those are outside the boundaries of the Commercial District. A cross section of Mesker components are found on He-H 36 (108-110 North Main) a circa 1890 building with metal elements that include an arcaded second story, bracketed cornice, and detailed pilasters; He-H 25 (215 North Main) an early 1870's three-story commercial Italianate with elaborate, gable and arched window hoods and intact, three-bay storefront; He-H 39 (129 North Main) an 1890's two-story with a complete metal second story facade that features a dropped cornice, quoin-like end piers, arcaded sash windows divided by Ionic-capped columns, and decorative frieze panels.

Henderson prizes the many Victorian-era architectural survivors in the Commercial District. The examples chosen briefly illustrate the variety and suggest the density of late 19th century commercial building and infer that indeed, the town enjoyed a healthy and prosperous commercial economy in the years following the Civil War.

#### A 20th Century Appearance

The layout of Henderson's commercial area was well established before the turn-of-the-century. Specific areas included a dense core of retail trade, wholesale manufacturing and commodity warehousing, transportation facility locations, Black commercial districts, and peripheral locations of service businesses such as laundries and undertakers. Physical changes within the commercial area in the early twentieth century were subtle rather than dramatic. The most recognizable transformation paralleled



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 5

---

the growing acceptance and use of motor driven vehicles. The area occupied by Black commerce along Second Street between Main and the Ohio contained primarily boarding houses and tenements, saloons and livery stables. It was gradually transformed to a density of automotive garages and related businesses by the interbellum years (1919-1945). Also, the boarding houses that shouldered the jeans factory and warehouse area near the river and Third Street were replaced by one- and two-story frame and brick dwellings with spacious yards. By 1913, Main Street at Third anchored the north end of the business district with the Elks Lodge, United States Post Office and Y.M.C.A., three significant turn-of-the-century socio-political properties. None of those buildings survives to illustrate the historic character of that area of the business district.

Second and First Streets between Main and Elm rivaled Main with commercial and architectural diversity. Although most banks were located on Main, these blocks contained hotels, several lodges, furniture, hardware and drygoods stores, entertainment houses, restaurants, and bakeries. Elm Street tended to contain businesses with an agricultural focus; hardware, feed and seed stores, buggy and wagon makers, and blacksmiths.

Henderson established a tradition of variety and modernity in commercial architecture in the nineteenth century. That tradition continued at the turn-of and into the twentieth century as new technologies, available building materials, and design influences prompted tall building, Neo-Classical and Revival motifs, and Deco and Moderne-influenced streamlines.

Mr. Otis' elevator, structural steel, and curtain wall construction were combined to create the American tall building. Although Henderson could never boast a true "skyscraper", the Ohio Valley National Bank did build a five-story edifice at the corner of Second and Main in 1906. And, in 1924, Richard Henderson Soaper opened the six-story Soaper Hotel on the corner opposite. Now demolished, a four-story, late-Victorian department store with corner turret and the still extant, Classical Revival Union Bank and Trust Company (1903) completed the impressive corner that included two banks, and Henderson's largest hotel and store.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 6

A national interest in Classical Revivals of Greek and Roman architectural forms was likewise pursued in Henderson. Many of the revival buildings houses pivotal municipal activities, social and fraternal lodges, commercial banking centers, and governmental offices. Banks include the 1923 Henderson National Bank at 208 North Main (He-H 23); He-H 20, the Ohio Valley Banking and Trust Company building; and the 1903 Union Bank and Trust Company (He-H 26), both cornering Second and Main. The Masonic Lodge (He-H 208) built about 1924 at 230 Second Street replaced several small houses with a three-story mass containing lodge, movie house and offices enclosed behind a slightly exotic, Classical facade.

Less well-represented were the Moderne and Deco styles. A few 20th century renovations of earlier buildings resulted in Moderne store fronts like He-H 22 (238-240 North Main), where two-tone green Carrera glass, metal framed octagonal windows and porthole-windowed doors contrast with the simple upper story fenestration of a pre-1880 building. The best surviving example of Art Deco influence in the Henderson Commercial District appears in the American Legion Hall (He-H 193), a stucco-clad, one-story block with channeled buttress-like pilasters and a chevron-detailed, octagonal tower over the entrance.

Innovative materials like concrete block (pressed to simulate stone) and reinforced concrete were popular in early twentieth century Henderson. Several automotive-related businesses on Second Street were contained in block buildings. Reinforced concrete was widely used in service station, auto showroom, and garage construction. Often a brick veneer front dressed the structural, grey walls.

The final historical architectural trend to emerge in the Henderson Commercial District includes buildings built between the First and Second World Wars. These vernacular commercial properties display the influences of modern technology and the spare lines of International architecture. Functionally, these buildings include automotive-related businesses, including parking garages, auto showrooms, auto upholstery and parts shops, service stations and mechanic garages. Retail and service businesses and offices also occupied the new buildings. Facade design tended to avoid dimensional decoration. Textural interest was gained through the used of varietal surfaced bricks and polychrome belts,

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 7

---

rectangular panels, lintels, and sills. Parapets were stepped or plain, and full plate glass fronts were common. These new buildings replaced earlier structures and complete the evolutionary historical appearance of the Henderson Commercial District.

The standards for integrity in the Henderson Commercial District were established in the context of overall integrity of historic resources in the study area. Only a few properties exist with original or nearly-original integrity intact. The majority have undergone alterations to first floor facades. Generally, infilled upper fenestration does not constitute a significant loss of integrity as hood molds, sills, and other defining features often remain. Non-contributing historic buildings are those with significant alterations to all or the majority of floor elevations. Buildings "encased" by panels are non-contributing, but might become contributing properties to the District if the modern material were removed to reveal an intact, original storefront.

The district properties are described as follows and correspond to the numbers on the District Map.

**1 C 238-240 North Main (He-H 22).** A three-story, eight-bay, common bond brick masonry, 19th century commercial building divided into two occupants with slight gable roof, partially bricked-in window openings that now contain steel casements and sash. Original stone and brick sills retained. First floor 1940s fronts with Carrera glass in black and light and dark green with octagonal windows and polychrome name "Princess" inset in transom area.

**2 C 236 North Main (He-H 185).** Similar to #1, but original fenestration on all three floors has been retained. Tall, six-over-six sash windows have stone sills. First floor front has square, steel piers, reeded and paneled I-beam frieze and new recessed plate glass entry and storefront.

**3 C 234-232 North Main (He-H 186).** A one-story, two-bay, brick masonry commercial building constructed between 1906 and 1913 with sloped roof, flat front parapet with geometric-patterned frieze, transom area infilled with wood and/or metal, reeded steel side piers, new storefronts of flush,

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 8

---

plate glass.

4 NC parking lot

5 NC 212 North Main Post WWII two-story, brick commercial building

6 C 208-210 North Main (He-H 20). The two-story, three-bay Henderson National Bank, built circa 1923 with brick masonry side walls and dressed ashlar limestone facade that features a flat front parapet; bays defined by fluted pilasters with leaf and shield capitals; a recessed central entry bay with acanthus-leaf topped pilars. A dropped cornice has metopes and dentils and the words "Henderson National Bank" with shields on the frieze. Fenestration includes a second floor triple window with corbeled lintel, and side bays with replacement, fixed two-story height panes. The intact interior features a two-story central space with coffered ceiling, acanthus leaf cove molding, four large, central skylights, and wall pilasters with corbeled brackets. (Interior furnishings are not original.)

7 NC vacant lot

8 C 140 North Main (He-H 30). A five-story, three-bay, corner-located, commercial property, built during the first decade of the 20th century of "fireproof construction", assumed to be brick veneer curtain walls over steel structure. Historic photographs show the property with stone window hoods and a Classical Revival cornice, both features having been removed. Also altered are the sash windows for metal framed replacements. The Main Street entry is two stories high with a slightly recessed entry surrounded by columns (fluted, Corinthian) supporting a frieze with the words "Ohio Valley Banking and Trust Company". Exterior details include light tan brick veneer front with American common bond side walls, a flat, stone pediment, stone sills, and a multi-bay side facing Second Street.

9 NC 136 Main (He-H 179). A three-story, early 20th century, brick masonry commercial building with the first and second floor fenestration altered. The third floor retains a dentiled and bracketed metal cornice and tri-partite Chicago-style sash windows with stone sill. The property might be considered contributing if the second floor, infilled window

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 9

---

space were renovated.

10 C 134 North Main (He-H 31). A two-and-one-half-story, three bay, turn-of-the-century commercial building with brick veneer front highlighted with stone shaped pediment, stone belt courses, and stone pier bases. Windows are single-light sash in the second and third floors. The first floor front has been partially remodeled with two new, flush entries and plate glass windows. Original rosette and acanthus leaf Mesker piers and I-beam frieze with discs have been retained.

11 NC 132 North Main (He-H 32). A recently remodeled, two-story, commercial building (1982 survey indicates the building was divided into three upper bays with brick veneer and stone parapet). A total facade renovation includes aggregate flush panels and new plate glass windows and entry.

12 C 130 North Main (He-H 33). Built in 1883, a two-and-one-half-story, two bay, eclectic commercial building with Victorian Gothic manners. The dressed ashlar, asymmetric facade is divided into unequal widths with stepped and battlemented parapet, a variety of sash window sizes, stone pediment detailing over a half-round upper light, and two stone balconies: one rectangular resting on corbels, the other elliptical, and both with stone "basket weave" fronts. The storefront retains stone side piers but has a modern recessed entry with plate glass windows.

13 C 126 North Main (He-H 188). Built between 1923 and 1931, a good example of Post World War I commercial building of two-stories, divided into five, irregular bays. A light tan brick veneer front has horizontal stone details at the coping, lintels and forming a sill belt beneath the second floor sash windows. The storefront is original with three polygonal showcases with marble bulkheads, copper window fittings, and two sets of paired entires.

14 C 124 North Main (He-H 182). Appearing on Sanborn maps prior to 1885, a one story, narrow, single bay commercial building with decorative metal cornice, frieze, and side piers. The storefront has been remodeled with a flat, metal canopy, plate glass over narrow, brick veneer bulkhead and a single, recessed entry.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 10

---

15 NC 122 North Main. Possibly originally similar to #13, a one story, single bay commercial building with modern renovation including a stretcher brick frieze with stone quoin effect, flat metal canopy and plate glass front with recessed, side entry.

16 C 116-120 North Main (He-H 34). The pre-1885 Masonic Lodge building, a three-story, brick masonry commercial building divided into three unequal bays. Although altered with the removal of the original cornice and the brick infilling of second and third floor window openings, the curved, stone window hoods and sills remain and strongly suggest the original fenestration patterns. The first floor is quite intact with metal I-beams, piers, a central entry and two modern storefronts recessed within the spaces defined by the metal piers.

17 C 114 North Main (He-H 35). A distinctive, Romanesque, two-story, single bay, commercial building of brick masonry with terra cotta ornament. The elaborate second floor features sash windows, molded brick pilasters and carved stone lintels, a stone sill belt, and a frieze with molded brick arch, terra cotta tiles, and corbeled brick platform beneath a terra cotta parapet. Original storefront features include reeded metal side piers and I-beam with discs. A modern recessed entry has plate glass showcases.

18 NC 112 North Main. A two-story commercial building with solid, brick veneer facade and modern, plate glass showcase storefront.

19 C 108-110 North Main (He-H 36). Built between 1884 and 1897, a two-story, two-bay commercial building with metal-clad front facade. Although window spaces are infilled with metal or wood panels, the iron-front has excellent integrity. The Italianate second floor features a corbelled cornice, paneled frieze, connected, arched window heads with key and spring stones and thin, round columns. The first floor, bracketed cornice is intact, but a modern storefront has brick piers and plate glass recessed showcases and entries.

20 C 104-106 North Main (He-H 37). A two-story, seven-bay, Italianate commercial building constructed between 1892 and 1897 with deep, corbelled metal cornice, bracketed metal hood molds over infilled or replacement window openings

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 11

---

(originally narrow sash), and a common bond brick front. The remodeled first floor retains a metal cornice, has a flat board covering the transom area, and has stepped, recessed showcases and glass entries.

**21 C 100-102 North Main (He-H 38).** A turn-of-the-century brick masonry commercial building with common bond side wall and veneer front, originally built as three stories with the fourth floor added between 1913 and 1923 (Sanborn). Although upper level fenestration is wither bricked-in or has been infilled with translucent glass block, the original design and materials have been retained. Details of this prominent corner building include a belt of arcaded windows on the fourth floor with molded and gagued brick arches; colossal, projecting brick piers with Corinthian capitals and bases of stone dividing the front into four regular bays; a First Street facade with grouped (infilled) window openings defined by raised brick belt courses that form segmental arches; and a first floor storefront with original acanthus and rosette steel piers, a boarded transom area, a modern, flat metal canopy and two plate glass showcases with recessed entries.

**22 C 223 North Main (He-H 23).** The 1867 Farmer's Bank and Trust Company building is a two-story, three-bay, brick masonry building with veneered side wall and front facade of dressed ashlar masonry with deep reveals. The hip roof has a wood cornice above stone belt pierced with three decorative, oval vents. The side second floor windows are two-over-two sash with flat lintels; the central window is arched with a pedimented hood mold. The second floor veneer is of rectangular blocks with fine joints. The first floor has a central entry flanked by sash windows, all with arched heads and keystones. The visible side wall has a brick veneer, second floor windows with elliptical arch top sashes and arched first floor top sashes, both with brick hoods. One window in the second floor is bricked-in.

**23 C 213 North Main (He-H 24).** The property is one-fourth of the original William Soaper Building, constructed in 1870. Number 24 and this building were originally mirrored to the north, but those portions have been torn down. The tall, narrow, brick masonry commercial building has a slightly-gabled roof, and is one of the most intact Italianate properties in the District. Metal components include a deep, cornice with paneled frieze and paired brackets; window

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHenderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 12

architraves with elliptical and gabled pediments with corbels; a bracketed storefront cornice, and three-bay storefront with square columns joined with basket arches. Windows are narrow sash with curved tops.

**24 C 213 North Main (He-H 25).** One-fourth of the original 1870 Soaper Block, a three-story, four-bay commercial building, shorter in height than its component to the north, #23. The Italianate building features a brick veneer with terracotta egg and dart curved hoods springing from terra cotta capped piers. Windows are vertically-divided sash with curved top sash. The original metal cornice has been removed and replaced with a plain, metal cornice, but the original metal storefront with corbelled and bracketed cornice and four bays divided by square, paneled piers has been retained.

**25 C 201 North Main (He-H 26).** The 1903-4 Union Bank and Trust Company building, designed by the Evansville, Indiana architectural firm of Shopbell and Harris. The property is two-stories with basement offices, built of dressed limestone with deep reveals. Features include a flat roof with ballustrated pediment; metal, dentiled cornice; plain architrave; sash windows inset between quoin-like piers along Main and Second Streets; a diagonal, recessed entry with colossal, Corinthian fluted columns; and two storefronts to the north side of Main Street with multi-light transom windows.

**26 C 136 Second Street (He-H 29).** The corner-located, six-story, brick masonry, Soaper Hotel, built in 1924, with five-course bonding and stone detailing. The Neo-Classical building has seven bays to Main and nine bays to Second, the original main entry. A flat parapet has a stone coping and stone urns marking the tops of stone quoins and vertical quoin-like piers. A stone cornice, plain frieze, and stone belt encircle the building. Windows on all upper floors are single and paired six-over-one sash with stone sills. Second floor windows are set in arched, stoned recesses with keystones. The Second Street entry is centered beneath a slightly curved, suspended metal marquee. A tri-partite window with stone surround is above with the works "Richard Henderson Soaper Hotel 1924". The entry has an arched fanlight. Four large windows with multi-light arch surrounds line the second street facade. To Main, six massive brick piers divide plate glass openings into equal bays. A



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 13

---

recessed entry is placed diagonally in the corner.

27 NC 133-135 North Main. A one-story, two-bay commercial building with mansard front and storefronts with recessed entries and flush, plate glass windows.

28 C 131 North Main (He-H-181). A two-story, three-bay, brick masonry commercial building built between 1885 and 1892 with elaborate, corbeled and bracketed metal cornice with paneled frieze and sash windows in the second story. The first floor has wood siding over the transom area, two modern, flush entries and one fixed window.

29 C 129 Main Street (He-H 39). Built in 1873, one-half of an original double building, the south portion having been demolished. The tall, Italianate commercial property features metal components including a cornice with curved pediment; joined window hoods both rounded and basket-arched; and arcaded storefront with floral designs in the spandrels, keystones, and round columns with leaf capitals. A modern, plate glass front is recessed behind the arcaded front.

30 NC 125-127 North Main. A one-story commercial building with flat front, large frieze area, recessed entry and multi-light plate glass windows.

31 C 121 North Main (He-H 40). Home of the John Reichert Cigar Company, a pre-1885 commercial building of two-stories with four bays, brick veneer front, metal components that include a bracketed and corbeled cornice and flat, label hood molds over segmental arch-topped divided sash windows. The first floor has been altered with wood shingles over the transom area, a flat, suspended metal awning and modern showcase windows and recessed entry.

32 C 119 North Main (He-H 41). A late 1900's, three-story, three-bay, brick masonry commercial building with veneer front, pedimented metal cornice; corbelled table; third floor arch-headed sash windows joined by a stone belt/hood. The three bays are divided by projecting brick piers. Stone belts form the third floor window sills and define the second floor ceiling. Second floor windows are sash replacements in possible original openings. The first floor has been altered with wood shingles covering the transom area, a flat, suspended metal awning and plate glass

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 14

---

storefront with bull-light glass entry.

33 C 117-115 North Main Street (He-H 42). A two-story, seven bay, Victorian Italianate commercial building of brick masonry with veneered second story with flat wood bracketed cornice, tall, four-over-four sash windows with stone lintels and sills. The right side first floor has been altered with a stretcher bond brick veneer over the transom area. A full plate front with central entry is beneath a suspended metal awning. The left four bays of the second story have been infilled with brick and short, sash windows. The original stone lintels and sill remain. The storefront is altered similarly to the right side. The replacement of the Italianate sash to the left bays would greatly enhance the historical appearance of the property.

34 C 113 North Main Street (He-H 43). Built between 1885 and 1892, a two-story, multi-bay, Italianate commercial building with elaborate cast metal second floor facade that includes a dropped, projecting cornice with scrolled panel frieze, quoin blocks; and arcaded window surrounds with keystones and Ionic capiteled columns between the single-light sash. The first floor has been altered with wood shingles fronting the original transom area, a flat metal awning, and plate glass storefront with recessed entry. An original side entry with steel side piers remains.

35 NC 111 North Main. A two story commercial building with textured, flush metal front covering the majority of the facade. The storefront has a flat metal awning and plate glass front.

36 C 109 North Main (He-H 44). A recently-renovated, late-nineteenth century, two story, two-bay commercial building with flat parapet and corbel tables, paired sash windows in the second floor, a brick veneer, and original steel I-beam and acanthus leaf detailed steel piers. Alterations include wood, pent roof enclosures surrounding the upper story windows, a flat, metal awning, and plate glass windows and entry storefront.

37 NC 107 North Main. A two-story, three-bay, brick masonry commercial building with simple design built after the period of significance with sash windows above a flat awning and a plate glass storefront.

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

**National Register of Historic Places<sup>1</sup>  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 15

---

38 NC 105 North Main. A two-story, three-bay, post WWII commercial building of brick with metal sash windows, flat metal canopy, plate glass storefront windows and entries.

39 C 103 North Main (He-H 184). A Moderne-inspired, vernacular commercial building built circa 1940 with polychrome brick veneer, two-stories, battlemented pediment, sloped side parapet to First Street, stone blocks decorating the frieze along with basketweave brick panel inserts, single light sash with header and stretcher lintels and stone sills and a first floor divided into three bays with black carrera glass bulkheads and frieze areas encasing plate glass. The entries are recessed in the north bay.

40 C 135-137 Second Street (He-H 27). A three-story, six-bay Italianate commercial building of common bond brick with Mesker steel cornice with end brackets and corbels and curved steel window hoods with shoulders and semi-circular medallion pediments. The four-over-four sash windows have been covered with fiberglass panels on the third floor. The first floor retains much of the steel front including seven piers dividing the six bays, three with curved tops intact. The original metal cornice above has been removed and replaced with sheet metal. New front infills are of wood frame with paneled entries and divided lights. The building is currently undergoing renovation.

41 C 129 Second Street (He-H 203). A one-story, three-bay, early twentieth century commercial building with brick veneer front and slightly-stepped parapet with stone coping. The front is divided into three oversized vehicle bays with multilights filling in the top half of the openings. The left bay continues to serve for vehicles while the center and right side bays now have showcase windows.

42 C 127 Second Street (He-H 202). A very plain, three-story, three-bay, early twentieth century, brick commercial building with flat parapet, common bond front, evenly spaced single-light sash windows in the second and third floors and a remodeled street level facade with wood infill over the transom area, a steel entry door, a side entry, and two, plate glass windows.

43 C 125 Second Street (He-H 201). A three-story, two-bay, early twentieth century, brick commercial building with

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 16

---

polychrome details. The body brick is dark with light tan detailing at the stepped front parapet, and forming rectangular panels in the spandrels. Three-over-three, vertically-divided sash windows are paired with stone lintels and sills. The first floor is remodeled with a wood shingled awning and storefront with brick veneer bulkhead, plate glass windows and two, wood entry doors.

44 C 123 Second Street (He-H 200). A three-story, three-bay, early twentieth century commercial building of pressed concrete block with both smooth and rusticated finishes. The parapet is stepped with a broken cornice. The bays have sash windows recessed in panels divided by smooth concrete block piers. The windows are infilled with wood panels on the third floor. The first floor has been remodeled with a wood shingled, shed awning, a brick veneer bulkhead and plate glass window and entries.

45 C 110 Second Street (He-H 215). A one-story, three-bay, twentieth century commercial building of common bond with brick veneer front and light tan polychrome brick defining the step parapet and a rectangular design in the otherwise plain frieze. The majority of the front is of glass with brick bulkhead, vertical plate glass paired entry doors, and translucent transoms.

46 C 116 Second Street (He-H 214). A two-story, four-bay, twentieth century, brick masonry commercial building with flat front parapet with tile coping, upper level nine-light casement windows over three of the lower bays. Wood covers the transom area over the entry. Plain stone defines first floor dividing piers. The left bay gives vehicle access. Second floor is laid in alternating courses of header and soldier courses.

47 NC Vacant lot

48 C 128 Second Street (He-H 213). The Pennyrile Building, constructed in 1927, is a two-story, five-bay, brick masonry commercial property with five course bonding, flat parapet with polychrome brick belts at the cornice and frieze lines. Five pairs of sash windows with soldier bricks define the lintels and the top of the first floor transom. The two storefronts are largely unaltered with multi-light transoms remaining to the left with a diagonal entry and

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 17

---

plate glass front. To the right, a sign covers the glass transom area and the bulkhead is covered with wood siding.

49 NC Bank drive in

50 C 222 Second Street (He-H 212). A one-story, single-bay, brick commercial building with a central, recessed entry, and polychrome brick frieze design.

51 C 224 Second Street (He-H 211). A one story, two bay commercial building with stone-patterned, pressed tin covering the front facade. Appears to have corbeled top pilasters. Storefront has two flush entries and plate glass windows.

52 C 226 Second Street (He-H 210). A one-story, brick commercial building with plain, step front parapet, wood infilling the transom area, and new plate glass front.

53 C 230 Second Street (He-H 208). The Masonic Hall is a four-story, five-bay, twentieth century, classical revival property of brick masonry with a veneer front and stone detailing. A flat, unadorned pediment with stone coping sits above a dentiled stone cornice with frieze etched with the works "Masonic Temple". The bays are divided by stone pilasters with Ionic capitals and plain bases. Fretwork belts form the sills of the fourth floor windows and the base of the columns. Third and fourth floor windows are eight-over-eight sash. The third floor is defined by horizontal brick relief bands and small, deeply inset casement windows. Spandrels between the upper floors are plaques with Masonic emblems. The first floor has three main bays divided by large, square brick pillars. New transoms and plate glass showcases have been installed.

54 C 234 Second Street (He-H 207). A twentieth century, one-story, single-bay commercial building with polychrome brick detailing in the rectangular frieze, at side piers, and above the multi-light transom. The central entry is recessed and flanked by plate glass showcase windows.

55 C 236-238 Second Street (He-H 15). The corner-located, three-story, brick masonry, Victorian eclectic commercial property has a three-story corner turret and decorative stone work. The building has common bond to Elm Street and a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHenderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 18

veneer fronting Second. Upper story details include a stepped parapet wall with corbelled table and stone coping, half-height brick pilasters, and seven bays (including the corner turret) with wood and brick infilled fenestration with rough stone sills and lintels. The square turret has an ogee roofline and finial cap and a bracketed metal cornice. A continuous belt of brick forms the arched tops of the third floor windows, some of which are brick infilled. Stone belts mark the sills and heads of other windows on the facade. Second floor windows are replacements of large, four-light fixed glass. The first floor is divided into two bays by massive, roughly-dressed limestone. Upper transom areas are infilled with black carrera glass and modern flush panels. Modern plate glass fronts are beneath.

**56 C 219 Second Street (He-H 204).** A three-story, two-bay, early twentieth century, brick commercial building with common bond walls and a brick veneer front with stone detailing and a projecting metal cornice with modillion brackets. The flat parapet has a stone coping, stone also is used to defined rectangular panels in the frieze, at window sills, and to top brick piers that divided the front into two large bays. Each bay features large, three part, fixed glass windows with wood frames. The first floor has been remodeled with corrugated metal applied over the transom area, a flat, suspended metal awning, and full, plate glass showcases with double, paired glass entries.

**57 C 221 Second Street (He-H 18).** A two-and-one-half-story, eight-bay, early twentieth century commercial building with handsome eclectic front facade of light tan brick veneer with fine, tan mortar and both rough and smooth stone details. The top half floor has a flat parapet divided into three bays by corbelled brick battlements with stone caps and coping. The attic windows are grouped in pairs and threes beneath a connected stone arcade with gaged, brick soldier arches and stone sills. The second floor windows are single-light sash, grouped similarly, on a rusticated brick background with a continuous stone belt sill. A rough-finished stone belt with a relief plaque reading "Johnson" marks the second floor. Alterations to the first floor include a wood shingled, shed awning above the transom area, and a modern storefront to the right. The left storefront is original with green marble bulkhead, copper framed showcase windows and some retained metal pilasters.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHenderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 19

58 C 223 Second Street (He-H 17). A three-story, three-bay, brick masonry, Victorian commercial building with veneer of molded bricks, and decorative stonework. The third floor parapet is broken with the central bay higher than the side bays. Stone coping, bulbous stone corner caps and a stone frieze with vine detail top three stone arches springing from decorative stone blocks. The round headed windows have been infilled with brick. The second floor bays are defined with molded brick piers, between which are tall, sash windows and a central plate window with stained glass transom. All windows have stone sills. The first floor is altered with the metal I-beam intact, siding covering the transom area, and a plate glass storefront with two glass entries and modern brick veneer bulkhead and side piers.

59 NC Parking lot

60 C 231 Second Street (He-H 16). The property is the partial Kingdon Hotel, a large, nineteenth century business. It is a five-bay, three-story, corner located brick masonry, Italianate property. Details include a deep, bracketed metal cornice, upper casement windows, second story six-over-one and one-over-one sash. A two bay connection to the left is taller than the main mass (the original entry was located here). The first floor has Mesker steel piers with rosette and butterfly design, a modern wood shingled pent roof fronting the building and recessed diagonal entry, two other entries, and plate glass showcases.

61 C 211 First Street (He-H 1). A two-story, three-bay, Victorian eclectic, brick masonry commercial building with stone and metal details. A flat, front parapet has a corbelled table and stone coping with stone corner finials. The second floor is dominated by a central oriole bay with three sash windows, a hip roof and metal bulkhead. Flanking sash windows have plain stone lintels and sills. The first floor has a Mesker steel front with rosette and acanthus leaf fluted piers and rosette I-beams. Two recessed entries to either side appear to be original fenestration. The central area is covered with wood panels.

62 C 213 First Street (He-H 2). The turn-of-the-century, Henderson County Savings Bank building is a two-story, three-bay, brick masonry, Victorian commercial property with eclectic features that include Mesker steel bracketed

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHenderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, KentuckySection number 7 Page 20

cornice and storefront, a terra cotta ornamental belt along the frieze, and rusticated stone creating a continual belt and segmental arch with keystone above the second story triple windows. To the sides are single sash windows. The first floor has rosette and leaf patterned Mesker piers. A new, recessed glass entry and plate glass windows are modern replacements.

**63 C 215 First Street (He-H 189).** A three-story, two-bay, early-twentieth century commercial building with brick veneer and stone details as coping on the stepped parapet, forming sills and corner blocks of the third floor, sash windows, and as geometric designs and rectangular identification block reading "Letcher B'ldg" in the frieze. The second floor has a circa 1920 projecting, wood frame bay with wood shingled surface, hip roof and sash windows. The first floor has a modern, plate glass storefront.

**64 C 219-221 First Street (He-H 3).** A four-story, six-bay, Romanesque eclectic, brick masonry commercial building with brick veneer, molded brick, terra cotta and stone details. The fourth floor design includes central, gable pediments with terra cotta infill, brick arches, stone coping, tapestry and corbelled brick cornice detail, and stone corner blocks. The second and third story windows, originally single and in pairs are divided by molded, curved brick piers and stone sills and lintels. These windows have been replaced with multi-light metal windows, but the original openings have been retained. The first floor retains the rusticated stone belt and side piers. A black, carrera glass frieze and flat, metal canopy top the plate glass storefront with two, double entries and full showcases.

**65 C 223 First Street (He-H 190).** A two-story, three-bay, early twentieth century commercial building with polychrome brick veneer details. The property has a stepped front parapet of light colored brick which is also used to create quoins at the edges and framing the second floor fenestration, in diamond patterns in the frieze and in belts, lintels, and sills. Windows are steel sash multi-light. The first floor is full, plate glass with double entires and display windows. A flat, suspended metal awning and brick veneer are other modern alterations to the first level facade.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 21

---

66 C 225-227 First Street (He-H 4). A two-story, eight-bay, brick masonry, Victorian commercial building with Mesker steel detailing that has recently undergone an extensive renovation in keeping with the building's original integrity. Steel components include a cornice with disks, corbels and brackets; elaborate, shouldered hood molds with rosettes and "keystones"; and reeded piers with floral capitals. Beneath the cornice are two, recessed brick panels. Second floor fenestration is single light sash. New, wood paneled bulkheads, glass showcases, and two, doubled, wood paneled entries, are part of the compatible street level renovation. An awning (possibly operable) covers the front sidewalk. A modern, one story, brick veneered, rectangular block with no windows is attached to the left side

67 NC 231 First Street. A one story, brick commercial building with two, modern bays and a shed roof sloping to the west.

68 C 239 First Street (He-H 5). The property is the joining of two commercial buildings, the rear built circa 1900 and the First Street portion built circa 1940. The rear portion has three stories divided with brick piers into ten bays with sash windows in each bay. Three entries with flat, suspended metal awnings face Elm Street. Some of the windows are infilled with wood panels. The front, First Street portion is three stories with two bays to each street. A tapestry brick veneer features wide, horizontal belts and raised header belts marking the sill and heads of the double and triple groupings of multi-light steel sash windows. The first floor storefront is divided into two with wood shingled transom area, diagonally recessed entries, and full plate glass.

69 NC First and Elm Streets. A one story, brick masonry building with flat roof and altered storefronts of fixed plate glass and entries.

70 C 303 First Street (He-H 6). A two-story, two-bay, brick masonry, Victorian commercial building with Italianate features. The second floor brick has been covered with stucco and the first floor facade is a circa WWII remodel with laminate panels similar to carrera glass with plate glass and recessed entry. The second floor features a Mesker steel cornice with bullseye medallions and brackets. Nine-

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 22

---

over-nine, paired sash windows have arch tops, joined by doubled belts of brick and segmental hoods. The windows are centered in recessed bays divided by brick piers.

71 NC 305 First Street. A one-story commercial building with stepped parapet covered with stucco and modern plate glass front with flat, metal awning.

72 C 309 First Street (He-H 7). A two-story, three-bay, early twentieth century, brick masonry commercial building with corbelled brick cornice, tile coping, three original sash window openings in the second floor with segmental brick arches joined by a raised brick belt. The window openings are infilled with brick. The first floor has been remodeled with brick veneer, a recessed, glass entry with plate glass windows, and a solid side entry. An imaginative paint selection highlights the original upper fenestration.

73 C 315 First Street (He-H 8). A two-story, three bay, brick masonry, early twentieth century commercial building with Mesker steel details in the cornice with end blocks, and end piers with fleur-de-lis and curvilinear designs. The second floor is divided with three single light sash with segmental brick arches. The first floor storefront has been remodeled with brick bulkheads, plate glass showcases, a central, recessed entry and a paneled, wood, side entry.

74 C 317 First Street (He-H 9). A two-story, three bay, brick masonry, early twentieth century commercial building with segmental brick hood molds over second floor sash windows and corbelled table beneath the flat parapet. The first floor storefront has been altered with wood siding covering the glass transom area, and a plate glass front with recessed entry. Original Mesker steel piers and I-beam have been retained with floral and curvilinear designs with fleur-de-lis pattern.

75 C 300 First Street (He-H 13). A three-bay, two-story, brick masonry, Italianate commercial building with metal and stone details. The original metal cornice, probably identical to that at 304 First Street #74, has been removed and the building recently renovated. Second floor windows (5) are joined with a stone belt that forms curved hood molds with keystones. The sash windows rest on a stone belt above a metal cornice. The first floor features a metal front with

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 23

---

fluted corner piers with a rosette and leaf motif. Multi-light windows with paneled, wood bulkhead and wood dividers are recent features, compatible with the original scale and design of the property.

**76 C 304 First Street (He-H 12).** A two-story, three-bay, brick masonry, Italianate commercial building with bracketed metal cornice, metal quoins at sides, arch top sash windows set in recessed bays and joined by a stone belt that forms hoods with keystones. The first floor has been remodeled with full plate glass showcase display. The building is similar to #73.

**77 C 308-314 First Street (He-H 11).** The Becker Block is a four-bay, two-and-one-half-story, brick masonry commercial building with eclectic Victorian detailing borrowed from the Romanesque. The building is divided into four large bays by four elliptical, molded brick arches in the upper frieze that spring from rusticated stones atop brick piers. Within the arches are three fixed lights surmounted by a stone lintel with floral shoulder blocks. Second floor fenestration features paired sash flanked by single sash windows, all joined by a similar lintel and plain stone sill. The first floor facade is divided into four bays with Mesker steel piers with I-beams. Original glass transom areas are boarded and storefronts are modern plate glass with glass entries. The building's cornice is of corbelled brick above a belt of floral terra cotta tiles. "Becker Block" is in terra cotta tile.

**78 NC 316-318 First Street (He-H 217).** An altered, two-story, three-bay, twentieth century commercial building with stucco covering, slightly-projecting central bay with overdoor and fixed glass windows.

**79 C 320 First Street (He-H 10).** A two-story, three-bay, Victorian commercial building with brick veneered front, elaborate metal cornice with brackets, metal hood molds over second floor windows and a central oriole bay with hip roof, corner aprons, and sash windows. The first floor has a metal front with Mesker components that include I-beam with rosettes and side piers. New, plate glass infills the original spaces.

**80 NC parking lot**

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 24

---

81 C 322 First Street (He-H 187). A two-and-one-half-story, three bay, brick masonry commercial building that has recently undergone renovation to the first floor and alteration of the original window sash in the second floor. Original features include a stepped parapet with stone coping and corner bulbs; brick pilasters defining the second floor bays; and stone lintels and sills. The remodeled first floor includes multi-light windows and new entries, and a new cornice. Second floor single light sash have been replaced with multi-light sash.

82 NC 324 First Street. A modern, one-story commercial building with metal frieze and front of plate glass and brick veneer.

83 C Green and First Street (He-H 207). Wolf's Tavern was built at this location in 1878 and has operated here for over 100 years. The building retains some Mesker components including the only surviving, elaborate metal cornice pediment in the District. Other metal parts include gabled hood molds above now partially-infilled second floor windows, and a metal cornice with side piers. The walls are of common bond masonry with a veneer front. A small, gable roofed, single story building is attached to the south side, of brick with entry, sash windows and brick arches.

84 NC North Elm Street. A one-story, modern commercial building with aggregate finish and false timber trim.

85 C 120 North Elm Street (He-H 14). A three-story, brick masonry, early twentieth century commercial building with hi-fired brick veneer, divided into two recessed bays with three sash windows in each bay. Gauged brick arches forms 2' basket arches above third floor windows. The flat frieze has a stone coping and belt with the works "Norris and Lockett Co.". Alterations to the first floor include a flat, metal awning, wood covering the transom area and plate glass front with recessed entries. Metal piers have been retained.

86 C 122 North Elm Street (He-H 195). Originally the Norris Livery Stable, the property is a three-bay, three-story brick commercial building constructed between 1906 and 1913. Second and third story features include three double bays marked by projecting pilasters, a corbelled table beneath a brick coping, and replacement windows in double-

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 25

---

hung sash openings with stone lintels and sills. The first floor retains fluted, metal piers and is remodeled with a flat, metal awning, wood over the transom area, and plate glass storefront with brick bulkhead.

**87 C 127 North Elm Street (He-H 196).** A two-story, three-bay, brick masonry commercial building from the turn-of-the-century with plain features including a brick veneer front, flat frieze with metal vents, three second floor sash windows with segmental brick arches. The first floor is remodeled with a suspended, flat metal awning, two entires and plate glass storefront. A single story addition with a single, large plate glass window is to the north side.

**88 C 129 North Elm Street (He-H 218)** A one-story, early twentieth century commercial building with stepped parapet, plain frieze.

**89 C 207-209 North Elm Street (He-H 194).** A one-story, two-bay, twentieth century commercial building of brick, with common bond side walls and veneer front, square frieze with rectangular polychrome brick insets. Each bay has a central glass entry flanked by flush, plate glass storefronts. Window openings on the alley have been infilled with brick.

**90 C North Elm Street (He-H 193).** The American Legion Hall is a one-story, five-bay, twentieth century building with moderne design, concrete foundation, reinforces concrete walls with stucco exterior, a central tower with stepped hip roof, and relief vertical chevron design. Beneath the octagonal tower is the main entry which is of double glass doors covered by a square, stepped overdoor marquee suspended on chains. An American Legion neon sign is located at the entry. The side walls are divided with ten moderne buttresses with vertical grooves. The buttresses corner the building and also define the front bays with vertically-divided four light sash windows. The frieze area of front and sides is decorated with contrasting blocks of color.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, KentuckySection number 8 Page 1

The Henderson Commercial Historic District is historically significant in the areas of architecture, commerce and economics. Properties in the District illustrate commercial architecture from the close of the Civil War through pre-World War II, circa 1865 through 1940. A variety of resources illustrate Henderson's economic evolution, from a wealthy, dark-leaf tobacco shipping port and commodity manufacturing center, to a diversified, automobile-oriented, regional commercial seat. The gradual change in primary commercial transportation modes, from the Ohio River, to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, to 20th century interstate highways is shown in the evolution of areas within the Commercial District.

**Pre-Civil War Growth**

The town of Henderson was founded in 1796 by surveyors for the Transylvania Company, a pre-Revolutionary War group intent on securing and settling western lands. Thomas Allin, General Samuel Hopkins, and Henry Purviance located the town on the Company's highest point of land on the south shore of the Ohio River. Above the bluff, they laid out four streets paralleling the river for two-and-one-half-miles, with twenty-five intersecting cross streets. Farmers were the first area settlers. They planted tobacco in the rich bottom land north of the present commercial area. Tobacco became a primary spoke in the region's economic wheel during the nineteenth century, and Henderson gained stature as a principal regional market for the crop. The early village supported taverns, the mill of artist/naturalist John James Audubon, physicians, general merchandise stores, and homes.

The county and town of Henderson quickly became a major commercial and manufacturing center of the Pennyryle region of Kentucky. The Pennyryle's Ohio River tier of counties enjoyed healthy agricultural economies, thanks to fertile bottom lands that yielded record crops. Henderson's principal nineteenth century industries utilized those agricultural yields. Dark leaf tobacco used in pipe and snuff mixtures was the cash crop of choice. The state established a state tobacco inspection station at Henderson in 1801. Beef, pork, flour and hemp transported on the Ohio were also inspected there by 1805. The station's plain, rectangular, one-story warehouses were located near the city's public wharf. Henderson businessmen built large

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetHenderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, KentuckySection number 8 Page 2

warehouses and tobacco stemmeries, numerous produce warehouses, steam sawmills, grist mills, a salt works, and local manufactures such as blacksmiths and shipwrights. The county seat's industries had grown to include several additional stemmeries, a brewery and coal company before the Civil War.

The early manufacturing ventures tended to address the Ohio (to the west), the town's primary transportation route, and the outlet for goods. To the east of the warehouses, smiths, tobacco stemmeries and transient housing, were Henderson's wholesale and retail commercial houses. Mains Street (a.k.a. Market) parallel to the river, contained dry goods, hardware, furniture, clothing, and grocery stores and banks. A city market house with a "callaboose at one end" was built for the town's use. By 1829, Henderson was home to a law firm, two physicians, and several merchants including Orrin Fay, a liberal trader who "proposed to sell his goods wither for cash or feathers" (Starling;285). In 1850, taxable city businesses included three taverns, eight groceries, and five stemmeries. Henderson craftsmen built steamboats, town news first appeared in The Gleaner, and completion of a number of residential and commercial properties evinced a healthy economy in the decade prior to the Civil War. A second public market house was built at a cost of \$1,200.00, the town outgrew and filled in the public well at the intersection of Main and Second Streets, and gas lights were installed. At the dawn of the War, Henderson was home to 37 stores, eight stemmeries, fifteen groceries, eleven taverns, and boarding houses, three produce and commission merchants, one lumber yard, one wagon yard and one wharf boat (Starling;318). The 1830 population of 483 had grown to almost 4,000 in thirty-five years.

**Turn-of-the-Century Growth and Prosperity**

Henderson, a town located on the divide between the Union and the Confederacy, experienced separate loyalties, the threat of Union gunboats across the river at Evansville, Indiana, the appropriation of tobacco factories for troop housing, occupation by both Confederate and Union armies, and looting by non-affiliated outlaw bands. The town's official allegiance was to the Union, although local officials ambivalently surrendered to Confederate Breckenridge Guards soon after Federal troops withdrew to Louisville. Yet, at

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 3

---

the end of the four-year conflict, Henderson rallied with a spirit for economic progress that would re-establish the town as a major regional commercial force.

The late 1860's through the turn-of-the-century were arguably the most progressive and prosperous years for Henderson, attested by public and privately financed construction and new development in the town's residential, commercial and manufacturing areas. The municipality reorganized under a new charter in 1867 and was geographically divided into four wards, each with two representatives. The city undertook a number of public works projects including the repair and paving of streets and public buildings that deteriorated during the War, and purchased the town's gas works. The Owensboro and Henderson Telegraph Company laid cable beneath the Ohio and incorporated with the Henderson and Evansville line. A daily mail route from Louisville via the river was established. Perhaps most importantly, efforts to build the Henderson and Nashville Railroad were revived.

The rails from Henderson reached Madisonville, Kentucky in the spring of 1869, guaranteeing new southern markets for Henderson's agricultural and manufactured goods, but the lack of a railway bridge across the Ohio continued to thwart easy transportation of goods to or from the north. Ferries brought passengers and freight across the river by boat, assuming currents, ice, or inclement weather did not make the trip impossible. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad purchased the Henderson line in 1879 and turned their focus to building a bridge across the river. Construction on the bridge began in October, 1881 with an opening celebration on July 13, 1885. The L&N bridge was replaced with a new structure in 1932.

The Henderson Reporter, in an 1880 article, relates Henderson's prosperity after the war in new buildings and municipal improvements. Schools, a new county courthouse, jail, city hall and post office were built between 1870 and 1872. A new waterworks was installed, and four new tobacco factories and four tobacco warehouses were enlarged or built. Twenty stemmeries operated in the town, employing 900 men in 1880. Retail and business highlights included the 1872 establishment of the George Delker Carriage Manufactory on Elm between First and Second Streets, and the construction of



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 4

---

many commercial buildings including the Odd Fellows in 1873; Soaper Block (#23,24; He-H 24,25); Lyne and Elam's (#29; He-H 39); Kley Meyer's, and McCullaugh's, among others. Outside of the central business district were the Katterjohn Brothers' mill with three run of burrs and store; McClain's distillery, a brewery, Clore's planing mill, and dozens of new houses costing from hundreds to thousands of dollars to build. To encourage manufacturing, the city voted to relieve new businesses of any tax liability for the first five years of operation.

The prosperity of the 1870s continued through the 1890s, in part, boosted by a number of solvent lending institutions and building and loan associations in the town. All but one of these nineteenth century banks were located on Main Street, and all occupied buildings either architect-designed, or expressing the physical attributes of contemporary commercial building. Individual banks included the 1867 Farmer's Bank and Trust Company (#22; He-H 23); the Henderson National Bank (now First National, organized in 1865); the Planters National Bank of 1883 (#12; He-H 33); and the Henderson Building and Loan Association of 1874). Large employers to the town included the Henderson Cotton Mills (1883), one of the largest such mill in the west with 200 employees and a \$2,650.00 per week payroll; Delker's Buggy Company; and the Henderson Woolen Mills. These, added to the many tobacco-related businesses and industries, two local distilleries and one brewery, and small manufactures like the Reichert Cigar Factory on North Main (#31; He-H 40), assured Henderson a flourishing economy through the turn-of-the-century. To house and entertain visitors, Henderson of 1880 hosted eight hotels and fifteen boarding houses, generally located on the periphery of the central business district. The larger ones, like the Hotel Kingdon, offered gent's and lady's entries, billiard room, dining room, and office space.

An idea of the building boom eras in Henderson can be gleaned from reviewing city directory listings. In 1893-4, individuals and businesses involved in the building trade included three architects: Walter Brashear, Aaron F. Kennedy, and P.B. Tribble and Son; six bricklayers; two brickyards; three builder's hardware stores; four building and loan associations (in addition to five banks); six carpenters and builders; three lumber dealers; two dealers of mantles and grates; one plasterer; three plumbers, and three

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 5

---

roofers. By 1912, a decline in overall diversity in the building trades was apparent. E.S. Tribble advertised as the only architect in town, and most builders were listed as general contractors, contractors and builders, and carpenters and builders.

Henderson's population leapt from 4,171 in 1870 to 10,272 in 1900. The great number of commercial buildings from that era attest to the period's significance. The turn-of-the-century marks the reining in of Henderson's dramatic growth. The population totaled 11,452 in 1910, and in 1920, there were 12,169 in the town. Although early twentieth century growth did not support a building or commercial boom experienced in the late 1800s, the town's growth was steady until World War I.

#### **Twentieth Century Transitions**

The most significant change to affect the Henderson Commercial District after the First World War was the introduction and gradual widespread acceptance and use of the automobile. All downtown streets were paved in progressive Henderson by the early 1920s. A review of the 1924 city directory suggests that automotive fever had swept the town. There were eight automotive and accessory stores; two auto body manufactures; two auto painters; three auto repair shops; two auto laundries; two auto liveries (the "U-Drive-It Motor Company" at 121 Second, He-H ); one wrecker service; four auto sales showrooms; one trimming shop and one storage shop. Ten automobile garages, eight of them located on Second Street, protected rag tops from the weather before private garages became commonplace.

Changes in marketing after the War created the large grocery and dry goods chain store. The smaller meat markets, clothing stores, groceries, and mercantiles often could not compete with the new rivals and began to decline in numbers. In the District, individual meat and produce markets declined in numbers and larger department stores and chain markets appeared.

The town weathered the Depression years as it had the Civil War: with an attitude of wait, as happenings beyond took their course. A general decline in the regional economy is attributed to less demand for dark leaf tobacco. Britain

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 8 Page 6

---

adopted a policy of only purchasing dark leaf grown in countries under British rule. That fact, combined with the surge in popularity of light burley for cigarettes caused a significant decline in the loose-leaf trade in Henderson. So much, that many of the warehouses and stemmeries were torn down. After the Depression and before the Second World War, the chain stores continued to occupy downtown commercial space (Penney's, Belks, and Woolworth), while long-established Henderson-owned firms like Alles Brothers, Fitzgerald's and Mann's continued to prosper selling furniture and mercantile supplies.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Henderson Commercial District  
Henderson County, Kentucky

Section number 9 Page 1

---

Arnett, Maralea. The Annals and Scandals of Henderson County Kentucky. Freeman Publishing Company: Corydon, Kentucky, 1976.

Dannheiser, Frieda J., ed. The History of Henderson County, Kentucky 1888-1978. Evansville, Indiana: Henderson Genealogical and Historical Society, 1980.

"One Hundred Years," The Gleaner, Henderson, Kentucky: March, 1985.

Henderson City Directories, various dates.

"Sesquicentennial Edition," The Henderson Gleaner and Journal, Henderson, Kentucky: June, 24, 1960.

"Henderson and Her Improvements in the Last Ten Years," The Henderson Reporter, Henderson, Kentucky: February, 26, 1880.

Merrill, Boynton Jr., ed. Old Henderson Homes and Buildings. Henderson: Historic Henderson Publishing Commission, 1985.

The Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Ltd. "Henderson, Kentucky": 1885, 1892, 1897, 1906, 1913, 1923, 1931.

Starling, Edmund L. History of Henderson County, Kentucky. Henderson, Kentucky: 1887.

Works Projects Administration, Henderson, Home of Audubon. New York: Rhode Printing and Publishing Company, Inc., 1941.