

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic	Shelbyville Cou	rthouse	e Square	Historia	: District	,			
and/or common	N/A								
2. Loca	ation								
street & number	Public Square	(Main	, Spring,	Depot,	and Brittain Streets)	N/A not for publication			
city, town	Shelbyville		N/A vic	inity of	-congressional distric	l			
state	Tennessee	code	047	county	Bedford	code 003			
3. Clas	sification								
Category Ownership X district public building(s) private structure X both site Public Acquisitie object In process N/A being consider		X_ yes: restricted		Present Use agriculture X commerciai educational entertainment X government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation tother:Library				
4. Own	er of Pro	pert	У						
name Mult	iple Ownership								
street & number	N/A				a. s. t				
city, town	N/A		N/A vici	inity of	state	Tennessee			
5. Loca	ation of L	egal	Desc	ripți	on				
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Bedfor	rd County	Courth	ouse				
			c Square						
city, town She1b			ville		state	state Tennessee			
6. Rep	resentatio	on ir	n Exis	ting	Surveys				
title None	e			nas this pr	operty been determined	elegible? yes _X no			
date N/A			-		I/A federal st	ate county local			
depository for su	Irvey records	N/A							
city, town		N/A.			state	N/A			

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	X_ unaltered	X_ original s	site
<u> </u>	ruins		moved	date
<u> </u>	unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Shelbyville Courthouse Square Historic District is comprised of 42 buildings in a five block area around the 1936 Bedford County Courthouse. These buildings are primarily commercial, date from the 1870s to 1930, and exhibit in their facade detailing a variety of architectural influences from the Gothic Revival to the Art Deco styles. Mostly of brick construction, the buildings range from one to four stories with the majority being two stories in height. The upper stories of the commercial buildings retain a high degree of integrity with most of their architectural embellishments in original form. The first story storefronts of many buildings, however, have been altered extensively. Nine buildings do not contribute to the historical character of the district; these have been altered to the point that their architectural integrity is lost or they are relatively new, undistinguished buildings.

Shelbyville, the governmental seat of Bedford County with a population of 13,530(1980 census), has its town square situated just northeast of the Duck River. Because of the square's close proximity to the river (onlits west side, development has occurred around the courthouse and on the east of the square. Four major streets bound the counthouse (Main, Depot) Spring, and Holland) to form a grid or block type town plan. The town's grid or block type planewas formed in 1810 when the land for the county seat town of Shelbyville was donated and the lots drawn. No buildings from the early period of development on the square and surrounding business area remain. The earliest buildings remaining on or near the square are those in the center of the east block on the square, built in the early 1870s and exhibiting influence of the Gothic Revival style. Development appears to have occurred primarily during the Victorian era from about 1875 to the 1890s. Buildings from this period are found on the east and south sides of the square and along Depot Street, extending easterly from the southeast corner of the square. A number of buildings show influence of the Italianate style and are interspersed along the south side of the square and along Depot Street to the east. Buildings from the early twentieth century are located along S. Main Street, extending south one block from the southeast corner of the square, and on the west side of the square. Those buildings on S. Main Street show little, if any, influence of formal architectural styles. On the west side of the square, the buildings date to the 1920s and 1930s and exhibit influence of the Art Deco style; these replaced late Victorian period brick buildings of substantial size. Late Victorian period buildings, that have been demolished within the last 30 years, were also located on the north side of the square. Buildings on the west, south, southeast, and east sides of the courthouse square and buildings on both sides of Depot Street, extending eastward from the southeast corner of the square one block to Brittain Street, are included in the district. (Because the buildings on the north and northwest blocks of the square are relatively new, they are excluded from the district. Although several of the buildings on the northeast corner block of the square are at least 50 years old, the majority of these lack architectural distinction or merit, or they have been seriously altered. Therefore, these are also excluded from the district.)

Most of the district's buildings are two story brick, Victorian commercial row buildings with deep, narrow rectangular shapes and flat roofs. Several individual buildings are interspersed, such as office buildings, a library, and the courthouse. Within the last several years brick sidewalks, trees, and streetlamps were added to the square in a revitalization effort as suggested by a 1976 urban design study. Concrete sidewalks front the side streets of the square and parking areas are located to the rear of the district's buildings. A small lawn with greenery and large trees surrounds the courthouse in %be center of the square.

The buildings are categorized into contributing and non-contributing structures. Contributing buildings are significant in the historic and architectural development of the district and retain their architectural integrity. Non-contributing buildings are those which no longer make

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Shelbyville Courthouse Square Continuation sheet Historic District Item number

a positive contribution to the district because they have been altered enough to seriously compromise their architectural integrity (although in many cases, not irreparably).

7

The buildings described in the inventory listing are grouped as contributing or noncontributing. Following the owner and/or occupant names/s are each building's address and/or location and architectural description.

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 10/31/84



QMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 10/31/84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Shelbyville Courthouse Square Continuation sheet Historic District Item number



Contributing Buildings:

1. Bedford County Courthouse (Public Square): 1936, three story brick, Classical Revival, rectangular-shaped with tin gable roof, two tier portico at each gable end with six first story columns of square smooth cut stone blocks and second story Corinthian columns supporting pediment and entablature, brick pilasters alternate with long round arched window openings on all elevations, flat entablatures supported by four Corinthian columns centrally located at entrances of east and west elevations, octagonal cupola.

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2. Cooper Building, Clifford Furniture (124 N. Main St.): ca. 1880s-1890s, two story brick with altered storefront featuring two large glass windows, stone horizontal band divides stories, second story features decorative tripartite window grouping enclosed by corbeling, decorative corbeled parapet with geometric design.

3. Cooper Building, Clifford Furniture (122 N. Main St.): ca. 1900, wide two story brick, two remodeled storefronts with stone block paneled columns and recessed glass windows and entrances, second story three sections with six bays, boarded window groupings of two each above which are two rows of three horizontal recessed brick panels and plain parapet.

4. Scudder Building, Pope's Cafe, Simmons (116,118,120 N. Main St.): ca. 1900, two story brick, three storefronts beginning at the right with a glass and wood entrance, cloth awning, and carrara glass sign panel above; in the center a recessed carrara glass storefront, cloth awning, and wood blocked surround (possibly covering original details); and, to the left a recently-remodeled brick three bay storefront set between original stone-quoined brick pilasters. Above, the facade is divided into three sections featuring groupings of 1/1 light windows between quoined pilasters, parapet is ornately decorated by brick corbeling and dentiled frieze.

5. Scudder Building (112-114 N. Main St.): early twentieth century, three story brick with altered glass storefront with two recessed entrances, extending across facade above the storefront is a wood panel (which may conceal glass panels), five multilighted second story windows have wide rough cut stone lintels and narrow stone sills, third story windows are shorter and multi-lighted with narrow stone sills and a continuous stone band serving as lintels, small rectangular vents are situated under brick corbeling and plain frieze.

6. Brantley Building, Scottie Drugs (110 Main St.): ca. 1870s, two and a half story brick, remodeled storefront of glass and brick, metal stepped awning and wood panel extending over entrance across facade, upper story is three bays wide with a wide boarded window and eliptical molding in center flanked by narrow window openings with flat decorative moldings, Gothic influenced high pitched return gable featured in center of upper story facade which breaks parapet, corbeling supports ornate parapet with knob finials.

7. Woosley Building, Crocker's Jewelers (108 Main St.): ca. 1870s, Italianate, two story brick, carrara glass storefront, projecting electric sign, upper story three bays wide, central bay round arched window opening inset with a pair of narrow round arched 1/1 light windows, flanking central windows are 1/1 light round arched windows,

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Shelbyville Courthouse Square Continuation sheet Historic District Item number

decorative arched molds surround windows, frieze supported by brackets and broken by round arch inset.

8. Hulan Building, Tip Thompson Men's Wear (106 Main St.): ca. 1870s, Italianate, two story brick, painted white, altered storefront with glass and metal recessed windows and doors, aluminum awning, panel sign extending across facade above entrance, three bay upper story, long round arched windows with decorative molds flank central window opening of two narrow round arched windows inset within one round arched window mold, corbeling, plain frieze broken by open pediment in center, finials and brackets found at each end of frieze.

9. Thompson-Burke Building, Roberts Bootery (104 Main St.): ca. 1880s, Romanesque Revival influence, two story brick, unpainted, carrara glass storefront, cloth awning, upper story three bays wide with a series of compound arches supported by pilasters enclosing round arched 1/1 light windows, corbeling featured below corbeled parapet with Greek antefix and scroll modillions.

10. McGrew Building, McKees (102 Main St.): ca. 1880s, identical to building on north side (number 22) except storefront altered within past 20 years by flat glass windows and doors trimmed with metal.

11. Woosley Building, Dot's (100 Main St., corner of Main and Depot Sts.): ca. 1880s, two story brick, unpainted, carrara glass storefront, cloth awning, panel sign across facade above storefront, wide brick dentils divide stories, upper story three bays wide with narrow compound arched window openings flanking a wide eliptical compound arch, corbeling supports plain brick frieze and crenelated parapet broken by a central stepped gable with corbeling, south side elevation is five bays wide with short round arched windows on first story and long arched windows on second story.

14. Carolyns (119 Depot St.): ca. 1870s, two story brick covered with asbestos siding, glass and metal trimmed remodeled storefront, cloth awning, three bay upper story, 2/2 light eliptical arched windows with decorative molds, bracketed and denticulated cornice and frieze.

19. Carney Building, Discount Office and School Supplies (112 Depot St.); ca. 1880s, two story brick, unpainted, carrara glass storefront, two bay second story with long narrow boarded windows with label molding, central circular vent below plain frieze and projecting cornice with large brackets at each end supported by pilasters.

20. Gordon Building, Zach T. Carney Attorney at Law (110 Depot St.): 1884, wide two story brick, storefront remodeled within last ten years by application of vertical board siding, original details most likely remain underneath siding, three bay upper story, 1/1 light long, narrow eliptical arch windows, central window situated slightly above those at right and left, dentil-like corbeling.

21. Woosley Building (106 Depot St.): 1880s, two and a half story brick, original storefront four bays wide, within each bay a glass panel window or door with transom underneath projecting cornice, second story three bays wide with long 1/1 light eliptical arched windows, decorative corbeling over windows and below three round attic vents.



OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 10/31/84

Page 4

7

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Shelbyville Courthouse Square Continuation sheet Historic District Item number 7

23. Haynes Building, Pepper's (102 Depot St.): 1880s, two story brick, original storefront covered by wood panel blocks, three bay second story 1/1 light round arched windows with decorative molds, bracketed frieze and projecting cornice.

Standard Drug Company Building, Standard Drugs (100 E. Depot St., corner of Depot 24. and Main Sts.): 1880s, two story brick, covered with ashlar stone on facade and stucco on side elevation added around the turn of the century, facade storefront entrance moderately remodeled, three bays of upper story divided by fluted Corinthian pilasters, 4/4 light rectangular windows flank each side of a central tripartite window grouping, denticulated frieze supports flat cornice.

25. Mintz Building (109 S. Main St.): ca. 1910, two story brick, storefront entrance configuration altered slightly, three bay second story of 1/1 light rectangular windows with flat rough cut stone lintels and sill, plain projecting cornice.

26. McLean Building, Cobb Realty Company (111 S. Main St.): ca. 1910, two story brick, practically unaltered storefront four bays wide divided by long narrow posts, wood band extends across facade dividing stories, three upper story 1/1 light rectangular windows with flat wood lintels, three square insets of patterned bricks located above windows and below corbeled parapet.

27. Midstate Finance Company Building (113 S. Main St.): ca. 1930s, one story brick, two storefronts, each with single leaf doors left of wide glass windows and glass panels above, corbeling.

28. Burke Building (115 S. Main St.): ca. 1915, office building, large square two story brick with rough cut stone basement level, three bays wide with 1/1 light windows flanking central recessed entrance, upper story three bays wide, windows have rough cut stone sills, modillioned frieze and projecting cornice surround building.

Bedford County and Shelbyville Library Building (S. Main St.): 1913, two story 29. brick, Neo-Classical Revival, originally U. S. Post Office building, monumental six columned flat portico with denticulated frieze, seven bay facade with 8/8 light rectangular windows at the far right and left bays and two long multi-lighted semi-circular windows flanking central entrance, brick pilasters divide windows, denticulated frieze and cornice extend around all sides of building, parapet.

30. Boyd Building, Salads'n More (101-103 Depot St., corner of Depot and S. Main Sts.): ca. 1875, wide two story brick with two storefronts, remodeled although original features may be covered, upper story five bays with 1/1 light round arched windows headed by decorative molds, bracketed frieze and cornice, east (side) elevation eight bays wide with round porthole windows below round arched second story windows.

5

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 10/31/84

Page

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Shelbyville Courthouse Square Item number





31. A-C. Ward-Faul-Turner-Grissom Building, Fair Store, Hastings Shoes, Beth's Antiques (105,107,109,111,113 Depot St.): 1891, two story brick building divided into five individual commercial shops (A-E) originally and at present which are joined architecturally by the facade fenestration and detailing: storefront A at far left remodeled with glass display window and recessed entrance, wide wood panel covers transom lights, two bay upper story features set of round arched window openings inset with rectangular 1/1 light windows, patterned brickwork in arches, decorative brick pilasters extending from ground level upward above parapet are topped by small pediment caps and divide the building shops; storefront B remodeled similarly, upper story features grouping of three rectangular windows with short patterned brickwork insets above; remodeled storefront C has large wood sign extending across facade concealing original details, second story windows identical to those of storefront B except for more detailed corbeling and brick ornamentation above. Storefronts D and E have been severely altered and no longer make a positive contribution to the historical and architectural character of the district. Refer to the inventory of non-contributing buildings for a description of these two storefronts.

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32. Boyd-Pitts Building, Village Square, Chitwood Jewelers, The Bible Book and Gift Shoppe, Ace Hardware (115,117,119,121 Depot St., on south side of square): 1890s, two story brick building, divided into four commercial shops (A-D), upper stories of shops are three bays wide except for D which is two bays wide and feature 1/1 light rectangular windows with flat decorative molding, corbeling, continuous horizontal band of rinceau ornamentation, bracketed frieze and cornice, storefront A at far left recently rehabilitated with vertical board siding and wood shingle awning, storefront B has been bricked and has a central door flanked by semi-circular windows, long narrow glass windows with square transoms of storefront C are set within original pilasters, vacant store front D is concealed by protective boarding.

33. Pitts Building, Knox Pitts Hardward (Depot St., south side of square): 1890s, two story brick, shares remodeled storefront with building on right side (number 47) of wide glass display windows, horizontal sign board extends across facades of both buildings, four bay upper story features narrow rectangular windows with round arched corbeling above each, corbeled parapet broken by gable pediment.

34. Pitts Building, Knox Pitts Hardware (123 Depot St.): 1890s, two story brick, storefront shared with building on left side (number 46), upper story three bays wide with rectangular 1/1 light windows, corbeling, modillioned cornice.

35. Mintz Building, Shelbyville Cable TV Service, Orr Insurance Agency (127 Depot St.): 1890s, two story brick, two storefronts remodeled, at left the storefront consists of a three bay glass entrance and on the right side wide glass display windows are set in plain wood boarding, original details likely remain underneath both storefronts, upper story facade is three bays wide with three round arched window openings inset with two 1/1 light rectangular windows and double-lighted windows in the arches, corbeling, bracketed and modillioned frieze and cornice.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Shelbyville Courthouse Square Continuation sheet Historic District Item number 7

36. Mintz Building, Barclays American Financial (131 Depot St., corner of Depot and Spring Sts.): 1890s, two story brick, storefront has been covered with vertical board panel possibly concealing original element, upper story three bays wide with rectangular 1/1 light windows, horizontal stone band extends across facade serving as window lintels, corbeling, bracketed and modillioned frieze, projecting cornice.

37. Pitts Building (corner of Spring and McGrew Sts.): ca. 1875, large two story brick, rectangular shaped warehouse building with gabled roof and stone foundation, altered window openings, some corbeling intact.

39. Watson Building, Credit Bureau (209 W. Depot St.): ca. 1895, two story brick residential building commercially used, L-shaped, projecting section of facade is three sided, four bay facade with eliptical arched single leaf door at far left, two round arched window openings in second and third bays and rectangular window at right, windows have stone arched or flat lintels and stone sills, parapet roof broken by gable with corbeling, stone foundation.

40. Gunter Building (W. Depot St.): ca. 1925, one story brick, three bays wide with a double leaf door and lighted transom in left bay, large central multi-lighted window, and a storefront window and single-leaf door with lighted transom in left bay, corbeling, flat roof.

41. Gunter Building, Shelbyville Health Spa, Capterton's Pharmacy, Dickerson Studios (105 Spring St., west side of square): 1929, five story yellow-colored glazed brick, U-shaped, Art Deco influence, facade divided by pilasters into series of five storefronts on the first story and double pairs of 1/1 light windows on the upper stories, geometric patterns on parapet.

42. Shelbyville Benevolent Lodge, Lamberts Jewelers (111-111½ Spring St.): ca. 1930s, two story brick, Art Deco influence, three bay facade with recessed central entrance, upper story five bays wide with two 1/1 light rectangular windows flanking a short single light window, color glazed bricks used to highlight geometric details, Masonic insignia on parapet.



OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP, 10/31/84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Shelbyville Courthouse Square Continuation sheet Historic District Item number

Non-Contributing Buildings: 12. Woosley Building (109 Depot St.): ca. 1870s, two story brick, covered with stucco, remodeled storefront, vacant, upper story originally three bays wide (three window sills remain visible), original bracketed cornice and frieze remain.

13. Pet Shop, Funland (111-117 E. Depot St.): early twentieth century, one story brick covered with asbestos siding, three storefronts remodeled, upper story grilled arched vents located above each storefront.

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15. Scudder Building, Shelbyville Fire Extinguisher Service (Brittain St.): ca. 1945, square one story concrete block, four bays wide, stepped parapet, flat roof.

16. Scudder Building (Brittain St.): ca. 1945, one story tin-sheathed shed, four bays wide, wood porch, vacant.

17. Landquest Realty Company (116 Depot St., corner of Depot and Brittain Sts.): late nineteenth century, two story brick, stuccoed, altered storefront, upper story three bays, partially shortened windows, original bracketed and denticulated frieze and cornice remain.

18. Wilson Building, J & J's Pawn and Novelty (114 Depot St.): late nineteenth century, two story brick, stuccoed, glass and metal storefront with wood panels overhead, upper story windows altered with evidence of originals remaining, some original architectural features remain underneath panels and stucco.

22. Bomar Building, Peoples National Bank (104 Depot St.): 1880s, two storefronts, brick, facade completely remodeled in 1957 with application of marble and glass storefront and smooth dressed stone block upper story, some architectural details may remain intact under new facade.

31. D-E. (111,113 Depot St.): this is a two storefront-wide section (D and E) of a large two story 1891 brick building divided into five individual commercial shops (A-E). This part of the building has been severely remodeled and lacks architectural integrity and merit. Storefront D has a large glass display window set within carrara glass and storefront E has been bricked recently with a central wood door flanked by rectangular multilighted windows with shutters, shops D and E as result of alterations share a single upper facade which has been stuccoed, two multi-lighted windows are placed one above each shop.

38. Bass Building (Riverview Building), M & H Pawn and Coin (corner of Depot and Spring Sts.): ca. 1945, two story brick, street level commercial, second story offices, central recessed entrance facing Spring Street, flat corner, multi-lighted windows, plain parapet.



OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. 10/31/84

OMB NO. 1024-0018 EXP. IC/31/84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Shelbyville Courthouse Continuation sheet Square Historic District Item number 8

The buildings in the district reflect the importance of the role the courthouse square served the county and city. The grandeur of the three story courthouse is reflected in the variety of buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century surrounding the square which feature elaborate detailing and decoration. Rows of two-story, flat-roofed brick commercial buildings, distinguished by Victorian architectural embellishments around windows and on cornices, are the most outstanding architecturally in the district as excellent examples of the fashion in commercial architecture from the 1870s to the 1890s. The Brantley Building (#6) is one of the earliest remaining buildings on the square and illustrates the Gothic Revival period of architectural influence with its steeply-pitched gable and pointed cresting on its upper story. A number of buildings incorporate round arched windows with decorative molding and bracketed cornices of the Italianate style, such as the Hulan Building (#8), the Thompson-Burke Building(#9), and the Boyd Building (#30). Fine examples of the Art Deco influence remain, such as the Gunter Building (#40), as well as a number of contributing early 1900s buildings.

From the beginning the courthouse, as the focus of the town, situated centrally in a rectangular block has attracted people and businesses. Due to the establishment of leading businesses and the county court on the square, Shelbyville became the largest town and trade center in the county. Shelbyville's square continues to thrive as such and has developed from the support it received from the county's agricultural industry, as the turn of the century for manufacturing cedar products and pencils, and its industry of breeding, training and showing of Tennessee Walking Horses. As the center for business and government where farmers sold produce, celebrations were held, horses and pigs were traded, and a mob lynching performed, the square has been a center of social and economic activity. It remains as a reflection of the town's development and continues the tradition of serving a variety of functions and social needs, as its variety of buildings attest.



8. Significance

prehistoric archeology-prehistoric 1400–1499 archeology-historic 1500–1599 agriculture 1600–1699 x architecture 1700–1799 art X 1800–1899	conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry	literature military music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation
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Specific dates 1870s-1930s

Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Shelbyville Courthouse Square Historic District is a collection of 42 primarily commercial brick buildings built in the period from the 1870s to the 1930s in a five block area anchored around the Bedford County Courthouse. Under criterion C, the district is nominated for its significance to Shelbyville and Bedford County as an outstanding collection of commercial architecture from the 1870s to 1930s period that demonstrates architectural influence from the Gothic Revival to the Art Deco periods of architectural fashion. As a collection, the buildings of the Shelbyville Courthouse Square Historic District represent the most distinguished example of late nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture in the city and Bedford County. This collection is among the best in the south central area of Middle Jennessee.

Shelbyville's town plan dates from an 1809 enactment, following an 1806 cession of Indian lands when several towns in southern Tennessee had their beginnings. In the enactment, four commissioners were appointed to purchase 100 acres of land within two miles of the center of the county on Duck River, and to reserve near the center a public square of two acres for building of the courthouse. An early settler of the county, Clement Canon, purchased and donated 100 acres in 1810 for the town and the lots were soon drawn. Occupying the center of the square first was an 1810 log courthouse. Following the first courthouse were four more: a brick building in 1813 destroyed by a tornado in 1839, a second brick building in 1833 which burned in 1863 when Confederate soldiers quartered there accidentally set fire to it, a grand 1873 courthouse that burned during a moboriot in 1934, and the present 1936 courthouse built from the walls of the previous building and almost replicating its appearance.

Shelbyville's town plan is laid in a grid pattern with the courthouse situated centrally in the town square. This arrangement, termed a block central courthouse square, has four streets which enclose the central courthouse and divide nine blocks into a grid shape with parallel Main and Spring Streets running north-south, intersected by parallel Depot and Holland Streets running east-west.

Although no buildings remain from the square's early period of development, the square and street plan itself remains unchanged from when it was platted in 1810 following the 1809 enactment by the four commissioners that were appointed to plan and purchase the public square for the county seat town of Shelbyville. Other early courthouse squares in Tennessee, although their plan derived possibly in a similar manner, were not of this type; the block type central courthouse square of Shelbyville was the first of its type in Tennessee and one that was frequently copied thereafter in other new towns forming in Tennessee and several surrounding states.

The whole nine block area of the Shelbyville plan, although unchanged in its basic form, is not included in the district because the buildings on the blocks excluded are either relatively new or lack architectural distinction, merit or integrity. The original configuration of the square and street pattern is evident, however, having five blocks which retain architectural integrity included within the district boundaries. Located on these five blocks are the imposing classical courthouse occupying the central block, the rows of two story brick commercial buildings dating from the 1870s to the 1930s on three of the four blocks facing the square (the east, south and west blocks), and the block located at the southeast corner of the square.

25-00 9. Major Bibliographical References

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Shelbyville Courthouse Continuation sheet Square Historic District Item number 10 Page

Verbal boundary description and justification (continued)

that retain integrity and cohesiveness in age and design. On the north side of the courthouse square, the buildings are excluded from nomination. The building at the northwest corner and those on the north block are comprised of two relatively new bank buildings and a 1955 church building that do not contribute historically or architecturally to the character of the district. The buildings on the northeast block, although several are 50 years old or older, are excluded because there is a greater number of non-contributing buildings (7) than contributing buildings (3) due to extensive alterations or being less than 50 years old and lacking architectural or historical merit or distinction.





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