#### OMB No. 1024-0018

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

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NOV 3 1988

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Downtown Ha	rtford Historic I	District		
other names/site number N/A				
2. Location 100 & 200 b1	ocks Main St., Co	ourthouse S	quare;	
street & number and 100 bloc	ks E. Union & E.	Washington	Streets	not for publication NA
city, town Hartford		·····		vicinity NA
	KY county	Ohio	code	183 zip code 42347
······································				
3. Classification				
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	···· <u>,                                 </u>	Number of R	esources within Property
X private	building(s)		Contributing	Noncontributing
X public-local	X district		16	2 buildings
public-State	site			sites
public-Federal	structure			structures
			16	objects 2 Total
Name of related multiple property listing	g:			ontributing resources previously
N/A			listed in the I	National Register <u>-0-</u>
4. State/Federal Agency Certifica	tion			
Signature of certifying official David <u>State Historic Pres</u> State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meet NA	s does not meet the	National Regis	ter criteria.	
Signature of commenting or other official NA				Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	·			
5. National Park Service Certifica	tion			
<ul> <li>Inditional Park Service Certification</li> <li>I, hereby, certify that this property is:</li> <li>entered in the National Register.</li> <li>See continuation sheet.</li> <li>determined eligible for the National Register.</li> <li>determined not eligible for the National Register.</li> <li>removed from the National Register</li> <li>other, (explain:)</li> </ul>	Patrick	2 Arduu	)	2/12/88 
	/er	Signature of the	Keeper	Date of Action

listoric Functions (enter categories from instructions) COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store GOVERNMENT: courthouse	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)		
GOVERNMENT: courthouse	COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store		
GOVERNMENT: city hall	VACANT/N	OT IN USE	
GOVERNMENT: correctional facility	GOVERNMENT: courthouse		
RECREATION & CULTURE: theatre	GOVERNMENT: city hall		
DOMESTIC: single dwelling	DOMESTIC: single dwelling		
7. Description			
Architectural Classification enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)		
	foundation	brick	
Commercial Style	walls	brick	
Moderne		concrete	
Art Deco ·	roof	asphalt	
Italianate	other	cast iron storefronts	
		stone panels, capitals & keystor	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

With a population of approximately 2,000, Hartford is the county seat of Ohio County, Kentucky, which is in the eastern end of Kentucky's western coal fields and geographically one of the state's largest counties. The town covers approximately 1.8 square miles on the southeast bank of the Rough River a few miles southwest of Its gently rolling terrain characteristic of the county the center of the county. overall is laid out primarily in a somewhat irregular grid interrupted by rural roads at its northern reaches and KY 231, the town's major access, near its southern Hartford's oldest and most densely developed portion is its western area boundary. along the Rough River which continues to display the town's original early nineteenth-century plan in its grid of small square and larger rectangular blocks. Here, a small central business district along Main St. (KY 231) incorporates the courthouse square and is flanked to the northeast and southwest by residential neighborhoods. Expansion during the twentieth century occurred to the east, beyond the railroad spur line, in a less regular grid of larger blocks. After World War II, considerable acreage to the north was annexed as that area was developed with subdivisions and small industrial facilities.

The Downtown Hartford Historic District consists of 18 resources occupying the courthouse square, approximately two blocks on Main St. and E. Union St. north of the square, and three properties immediately south and east of the courthouse. All except one resource, a circa 1870 brick house, are commercial and institutional buildings representing three architecturally distinct periods: the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, 1920 to 1930, and the late 1930s to early 1940s. The earliest group of commercial buildings includes the district's only two constructed of wood; in addition, four are of masonry construction, including two with cast iron fronts. Among the five buildings representing the decade ending in 1930, one dates to the late nineteenth century but had its main facade reconstructed in the 1920s. From the late Depression years, two buildings were private endeavors and three were the result of a federally sponsored public works program. Most of the buildings are two stories tall, although a few are a single story and the courthouse is two stories on a full raised basement.

Little vegetaion and shallow setbacks or none at all characterize the district. North of the courthouse square, all of the buildings directly abut concrete sidewalks. Most of the commercial buildings occupy their entire parcels, but three buildings on the northeast side of Main St. occupy property extending to an alley, providing an unpaved parking area behind the structures. The only greenery in the district appears at the courthouse square, the Thomas House and the Ohio County Jail which have small lawns, tall hardwoods, and shrubbery. The courthouse square is slightly elevated and marked at the sidewalk by a concrete retaining wall. In X See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance					
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:					
Applicable National Register Criteria X A B X C	D				
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	D E F G NA				
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Commerce Politics/Government Architecture	Period of Significance Significant Dates c. 1870 - 1941 1937-1941				
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Cultural Affiliation N/A				
Significant Person N/A	Architect/Builder Walter Scott Roberts, architect of WPA bdg W. C. McClellan, builder of WPA buildings				

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

The Downtown Hartford Historic District in Hartford, Kentucky is significant under National Register Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A the area is important as tangible reminder of the town's development during the late nineteenth and early a twentieth centuries as one of Ohio County's commercial centers, a status related to the town's role as the seat of county government. The Downtown Hartford Historic District contains commercial buildings representing steady economic growth from the 1870s to the 1920s and a resurgence in the late 1930s. It also incorporates public buildings reflective both of the local governments that helped shape the town and of The district the area's revival aided by federally-funded Depression era programs. is significant under Criterion C as a collection of relatively intact distinctive and representative examples of the building types and architectural styles popular for commercial and institutional buildings in Hartford from the 1870s to the beginning of World War II. The Moderne Ohio County Courthouse is particularly important as the district's most architecturally distinctive component and the county's only example In addition, one house is a noteworthy example of popular postbellum of the style. domestic architecture and a reminder of the close proximity of fashionable houses to the heart of the central business district that characterized nineteenth-century Hartford.

Hartford developed on land that was part of Gabriel Madison's 4,000-acre grant received from the Commonwealth of Virginia and surveyed in 1782 by James Harrod during his travels up the Green and Rough Rivers. An account written in the early 1800s by a William Smithers relates that he and several other settlers helped build "a fort at Hartford on Rough Creek" in 1782-83, which local tradition asserts was the first permanent settlement in Ohio County and the entire lower Green River Valley. It is believed to have consisted of a stockade and small log buildings on the bluff above the Rough River now occupied by Hartford's water plant. Although many believe the town's name refers to a ford on the Rough River (a large tributary of the Green River then known as Rough Creek), and an early settler who operated a ferry there, the name's origin remains uncertain.

Settlement of Hartford and Western Kentucky in general proceeded fairly slowly. In 1798, portions of Jefferson, Nelson and Hardin counties were consolidated as Ohio County. Originally the new county was approximately 1,500 square miles stretching north to the Ohio River, for which it was named, and comprised all of the present [X] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A 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 #	<ul> <li>See continuation sheet</li> <li>Primary location of additional data:</li> <li>State historic preservation office</li> <li>Other State agency</li> <li>Federal agency</li> <li>Local government</li> <li>University</li> <li>Other</li> <li>Specify repository:</li> <li>Kentucky Heritage Council</li> </ul>			
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of propertyapproximately 4 acres				
UTM References         A       1.6       5       0.7       9.5       0       4.1       4.4       7.5       0         Zone       Easting       Northing         C	B 1 6 5 0 8 1 5 0 4 1 4 4 5 4 0 Zone Easting Northing			
	See continuation sheet			
Verbal Boundary Description The boundary of the Downtown Hartford line on the accompanying map entitled "Bound a composite of enlargements of portions of 90-A-1 and 90-A-2.	d Historic District is shown as the bold dary", which has a scale of 1"=200' and is Ohio County Property Identification Maps			
	See continuation sheet			
streetscape of Hartford's central busine	Historic District includes the pre-World integrity to contribute to the historic ss district. The boundary is drawn to and post-World War II construction. The			
	X See continuation sheet			
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Claudia R. Brown				
organization	date <u>September 1988</u> telephone <u>919/828-8403</u>			
city or town Raleigh	stateNC zip code _27605			

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addition, small commemorative markers of recent vintage decorate the square's front lawn.

Built between 1868 and 1870, the Thomas House (entry 16) is the district's oldest building as well as its most decorative. The two-story L-shaped structure of red common bond brick clearly exhibits the influence of the Italianate style in its heavily bracketed cornice and paired tall and narrow double-hung sash windows. These windows are perhaps the most distinctive features of the house due to their flat crowns, which are tall and bracketed at the first floor, and unusual flat sawn surrounds which recall bracket profiles at the corners. Additional ornament beneath the sills of several windows consists of bargeboard, which also appears along all of the eaves of the tall one-story side wing. The pronounced ribbon-like continuous spandrels at the side porch sheltering the current main entrance also are noteworthy.

Of the six buildings erected between the 1870s and 1900s, the two wooden buildings on E. Union St. (entries 14 and 15) are the most intact as well as the most modest. Both typify the frame commercial buildings that formerly characterized much of Hartford's downtown in their rectangular, weatherboarded false parapets concealing qable-front roofs. Although the storefronts of these adjoining buildings are similarly designed with multi-paned windows flanking a central entrance, differences appear in the sheathing -- flush horizontal boards on the two-story corner building and flush vertical boards, except for recessed panels below the windows, on the onestory unit. In contrast, the four brick buildings of the same period on Main St. have altered storefronts, but three of their upper main facades (entries 1, 3 and 7) continue to display original decorative brickwork such as recessed panels topped with dentils at Thomas Brothers (entry 7) and a tall corbelled pendant cornice at Carson & Company (entry 3). Despite the storefront alterations, Thomas Brothers and Hartford Grocery Company (entry 10) also retain distinctive cast iron framework embellished with capitals bearing neoclassical motifs such as anthemia and rosettes.

With one exception, the district's buildings erected between 1920 and 1930 share the identifying features of principal elevations executed in dark brownish-red wire brick that are sparely ornamented with simple brick patterns flush with the facades and capped by flat or stepped parapets with concrete or stone coping. While the Barrass-Schroader Building (entry 4) is monochromatic, Quality Chevrolet Company (entry 8), the Schapmire Building (entry 5), and 220 Main St. (entry 2; actually an 1870s building with a 1920s replacement facade) all exhibit the use of glazed buffcolored brick for the decorative bands. Defining roofline, windows, corners and a stringcourse, the lighter brick appears in greatest concentration at the Schapmire Building. The Standard Dil Station (entry 6) at the corner of Main and E. Union Streets contrasts to the tall one- and two-story buildings in its small cubical form with a hipped roof extended as a canopy above the gasoline pumps.

From the 1930s, the two privately constructed buildings in the Downtown Hartford Historic District perpetuate the pared-down styling in brick that typifies the previous decade's commercial development. The small one-story building at 235 Main

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St. (entry 11) is devoid of decoration. Next door, the two-story Likens Building (entry 12) of 1937, the town's only substantial private project of the period, stands out due to the incorporation of slightly projecting stone stringcourses and keystones and mason stops at the recessed corner entrance in addition to the ubiquitous patterned brickwork in the same brick as the rest of the walls. Similar to the Likens Building in its apparent neoclassical inspiration, the Works Project Administration-sponsored Ohio County Jail (entry 17) begun in the late 1930s also features a stone stringcourse and coping on flat brick walls. Although the ornamentation of the other two federally-assisted public buildings is restrained as well, they are the district's most visually interesting resources due to their Art Deco styling. The Ohio County Courthouse entry 13), more properly defined as an example of the branch of Art Deco known as "Moderne," is distinguished by flat and curving concrete walls and cleanly incised multi-paned metal and glass brick windows that streamline and thus accentuate the massiveness of its form, which also is enhanced by an elevated site. The Kentucky Theatre/Hartford City Hall complex (entry 18) is more traditional in the use of brick for its main facade, but the flat buttresses with stylized stone capitals lend a streamlined verticality that is characteristically Art Deco.

Several elements of the Downtown Hartford Historic District, including the courthouse, jail and main block of the Kentucky Theatre/Hartford City Hall, remain virtually intact on the exterior. As in most downtowns, however, storefronts have suffered the greatest changes. The storefronts of the Schapmire and Barrass-Schroader buildings and a few others remain intact or only slightly altered, but the majority of the original storefronts have been replaced altogether or remodelled with the covering up of transoms and the installation of new metal-framed plate glass display windows. Fortunately, most of the upper elevations of these buildings have been well preserved so that the district's streetscape retains its historic character. Only two facades are so altered that the buildings are non-contributing. There are two instances of modern additions, but these do not detract significantly from the buildings' original impression. Despite alterations, the district remains a visually distinct entity due to the extensively renovated older buildings and new construction that define its edges.

#### **INVENTORY LIST**

[All resources are keyed by number to the accompanying "Resource and Photo Key Map".]

 <u>214 Main St.</u> The attic vents and bands of simple yet decorative brickwork at the upper main facade reflects a late nineteenth-century date for this two-story building erected as part of a row of four almost identical units. It is probably the oldest building in the district and may have been built as early as 1870, the date of a deed for the property which refers to plans for "erecting a block of brick business houses." In 1920, Luther Leach and Tom Likens opened a grocery store here; five years later, the Sanborn Insurance Maps show a hardware store on the first floor. A 1930s or 1940s replacement of the storefront entailed the installation of carrara glass facing. (C)

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- 2. 218\_Main\_St. Early photographs reveal that this two-story brick building was the southernmost in a row of four almost identical units constructed sometime in the 1870s or 1880s. An 1870 deed for the property occupied by the row cites a planned "block of brick business houses," but the commencement date of construction is not certain. It is known, however, that J. W. Ford and J. B. Wells's pharmacy owned and occupied this building sometime prior to 1891 when James H. Williams bought it for his Rexall drug store, a tenant for several decades. For many years beginning in 1908, photographer Emory G. Schroeter had his studio on the second floor. The awkward placement of one of the upper windows flush with the end of the facade indicates that 220 and 214 Main St. were planned as a single project with two storefronts separated by a staircase leading to a seven-bay second story. Unlike the neighboring unit at 214 Main St., the only other surviving member of the row, 220 Main St. has had its upper facade reconstructed, as well as its storefront replaced. The deep red brick front simply ornamented with brick in a contrasting color is typical of 1920s and 1930s commercial styling. (C)
- 3. Carson & Company. 222 Main St. In 1903, Carson & Company partners James Henry Belt Carson, F. O Austin and Ira D. Bean had this two-story brick building constructed for their dry goods business. Carson began the company around 1890 as a grocery in a building on Union St. and within a few years moved to a rented storefront on Main St. where he branched out into general merchandise. Carson & Company constructed their building in the shape of an "L" consisting of two units on Main and Center Streets with identical facades. Although both original cast iron storefronts have been replaced, the upper elevations remain intact, characterized by tall corbelled pendant brick cornices and rectangular one-over-one double-hung windows in segmental arches. Carson & Company certainly installed their dry good in the larger unit fronting Main St. as soon as construction was completed, but it is not certain if they rented out the Center St. wing, known as the "annex," or used it for their grocery. The upper floors of both units were occupied early on by the Knights of Pythias Rough River Lodge No. 110 and the Free and Accepted Masons Hartford Lodge No. 675, which together bought the property from Carson & Company in 1908; in 1944, the Knights of Pythias sold their interest to the Masons. Carson & Company remained in the storefronts, installing a furniture department in the Center St. unit in 1911 and later using that space as a warehouse. After becoming sole owner of the business, Carson divested himself of the furniture and grocery portion and in 1936 sold the balance to his son-in-law, L. S. Iglehart. Carson & Company continued under Iglehart and then his widow until 1953 and is remembered today as one of Hartford's most enduring and successful enterprises. (C)
- 4. <u>Barrass-Schroader Building</u>. 226-228 Main St. The main elevation faced in dark red wire brick and capped by a simple stepped parapet with stone coping reflects the building's c. 1930 construction date. Having replaced two nineteenth-century one-story frame buildings, the current structure is partitioned into two units on

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both floors, as indicated by the two storefronts, doors leading to two staircases, and the arrangement of the second-story windows. Dr. Edward Barrass and Mrs. Bertha Schroader had the building constructed. The first tenants on the lower floor were Alfred Duke and Virgil Crowe, who operated Duke's Market, a grocery; Dr. Barrass and C. M. Crowe, an attorney, had offices upstairs. The only alteration is the replacement of the north storefront; the south storefront is intact with tiled bulkheads and recessed central entrance. (C)

- 5. <u>Schapmire Building</u>. 143 N. Main St. On the site of his original 1907 building, W. F. Schapmire had this one-story tile building veneered in brick constructed in 1930 to provide more spacious and modern facilities for his job printing business. The building is typical of its period in its decoration of simple geometric patterns and outlining in a brick that is flush with but in a contrasting color to the deep red elevations. Ochre-colored brick appears as quoins at the front corners of the building, at each side of the storefront, at the flat parapet roofline, as a soldier-course stringcourse, as three simple patterns in the upper main facade, and as the sills and sides of the display window and multi-paned metal windows on the south elevation. The building's unaltered exterior also features a storefront with full-facade transom, plate glass display windows, tiled bulkheads and recessed entrance. (C)
- 6. <u>Standard Oil Station</u>. North corner of Main St. and E. Union St. Constructed by Standard Oil Company in 1930, the original brick portion of this building epitomizes the first wave of "filling stations" constructed to meet the needs of the burgeoning automobile age in its small size and low-pitched roof which extends as a canopy over the gasoline pump island. The building is positioned to address the intersection at which it is strategically located. After World War II, the station expanded its operation with the cinder block addition containing two service bays facing Union St. (C)
- 7. <u>Thomas Brothers</u>. 201 Main St. Despite the modern replacement of the original two storefronts with a single recessed entrance and flanking plate glass display windows, this one-story brick building is notable as one of the oldest buildings in Hartford's central business district and one of its only two resources to retain a cast iron front, which here consists of fluted piers capped with rosettes and anthemions. Decorative recessed panels remain in the upper main facade, but the original brick modillion and dentil cornice recently has been replaced with a somewhat shorter parapet distinguished only by a flat soldiercourse cornice. Round and segmental arched windows with simple brick hoodmolds remain on the north side elevation. Thomas Brothers was begun as a saddlery and harness shop in 1835 by David E. Thomas and his brother (unidentified) in a frame building on this site. After Thomas's death in 1855, his three sons --John C., E. Peter and David Ellis -- took over the business and in 1876 expanded it with a stock of groceries. In 1898, the three brothers had this brick building constructed to better accommodate their grocery business. After two of the brothers died, the building was sold in 1926. E. C. Heflin and his sons

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purchased the building after World War II for their appliance and electrical, plumbing and heating business. (C)

- B. Quality Chevrolet Company. 211-213 Main St. Like the service station at the corner of N. Main and Union Streets, this two-story brick-veneered building also represents the growing popularity of the automobile in the early decades of this century. It replaced a one-story building which housed both J. C. Iler's Grocery and J. W. Ford's Livery Barn which became Taylor & Morris Motor Company in the 1920s. After Cecil P. Taylor entered into a partnership with his brother-in-law, Henry Nall Schultz, they had the present building erected for their Quality Chevrolet Company around 1930. Large display windows with multi-paned transoms, multi-paned metal windows at the second story, and a simple stepped parapet characterize the building, which resembles the Schapmire Building in its flush, ochre-colored brick used for lintel, sills, and stringcourse. A one-story brick wing with garage doors and large multi-paned metal windows, apparently for a repair shop, extends across the rear of this building and the adjacent Thomas Brothers building for access to E. Union St. An original garage door at the north end of the main elevation recently has been remodelled as a storefront. (C)
- 9. <u>215 Main St.</u> The 1925 Sanborn Insurance Maps depict this one-story brick building as a garage with a capacity of 20 cars and facilities for Hartford's fire department in its rear portion. Believed to have been built by local commercial developer R. B. Martin in 1921, it was occupied for many years by Acton Brothers Ford Motor Company. Replacement display windows and entrance and a wooden shed awning that obscures the entire upper portion of the main facade have thoroughly altered the building's appearance. (NC)
- 10. <u>Hartford\_Grocery Company</u>. 219-221 Main St. Although the display windows and tall full-facade transom have been covered with plywood, the several elements of the cast iron storefront -- one of only two remaining in the district, are intact and include anthemions in the capitals of the four piers and rosettes in the horizontal member across the top of the transom. The upper elevation of the two-story brick building retains its original one-over-one double-hung rectangular windows with flat concrete sills and lintels but has lost its cornice, probably of metal. The tall main elevation also fronts an attic, indicated by the small vents covered by metal grilles. The building's earliest known occupant was A. D. White who began a grocery here in 1890 or 1891 and may have had the building constructed. When James Lyons became White's partner in 1909, the business became Hartford Grocery Company; it remained in operation at this location until around 1930. Kentucky Utilities Company maintained offices here from 1932 until 1953. (C)
- 11. <u>235 Main St.</u> This narrow, one-story masonry building is characterized by a metal and glass storefront and brick-veneered upper elevation. A one-story brick building constructed on this site early in this century for many years accommo-

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dated a butcher shop owned by John C. Riley, who may have commissioned the construction. Riley also was the founder in 1901 of the First National Bank located in the adjoining Commercial Hotel Building. Later occupants included Joe Wilson's butcher shop and Fulkerson's Pool Room. During excavation of the basement of the Likens Building on the former site of the Commercial Hotel in 1937, the walls of this one-story building collapsed, killing two or three workmen. The building was reconstructed and later considerably altered with the installation of the current storefront. (NC)

- 12. Likens\_Building. 237 Main St. In 1937, shortly after purchasing the property, druggist Thomas F. Likens and his son and partner, Arnold F. Likens had this twostory, brick-veneered tile building constructed as new guarters for their drug store and other retail establishments on the first floor and apartments on the second. The building is characteristic of its period in its flat elevations with a minimum of decoration including stringcourses in simple brick patterns and slight corbelling at the cornice. Stone appears as window sills, roofline coping and the name plate in the upper main facade. Stone used for stringcourses and keystones and mason stops at the arches enframing the recessed corner entrance also highlight the corner unit occupied by the pharmacy. Likens Drug Company originated as Hartford Drug Company in 1908 under the direction of G. B. Likens, Thomas Likens's father. The earlier company was located in the three-story brick building with a corner tower, also the home of the Commercial Hotel (established 1835 in a frame building on this site) and First National Bank, which was razed to make way for the present structure. (C)
- Courthouse Square. The Dhio County Courthouse is the 13. Ohio County Courthouse. most imposing building in Hartford's central business district and one of the most architecturally distinctive buildings in the county. The large two-story courthouse of solid concrete construction -- Ohio County's fourth courthouse to occupy this square -- was completed in 1943 according to a design by architect Walter Scott Roberts in consultation with Wescott & Thornton, engineers, all of Owensboro, Kentucky. The building was begun in 1940 following the razing of the obsolete 1865 courthouse as part of a comprehensive program utilizing Works Progress Administration funds allocated under the New Deal in an effort to revitalize economically depressed communities. Consisting of a tall central block flanked on the east and west by shorter units, the building is the county's only representative of the Moderne style, which is evident in the materials, cleanly defined form and fenestration, multi-paned metal windows, and very spare use of stylized ornament such as the vertical elements at the cornice evocative of classical dentils. Facing Main St., the projecting two-story pavilion is the focal point of the design with its rounded corners and vertical expanses of glass brick marking the stairwell, which also appear at the plainer recessed rear entrance. On the main elevation, a stylized keystone and the words "COURT HOUSE" in large Art Deco stainless steel letters appear at the top of the entrance pavilion, while the top of the bays to either side bear the words "LIBERTY" and "JUSTICE" incised in the concrete. (C)

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- 14. <u>116 E. Union St.</u> In its very simple design and wooden construction, this one-story building recalls the character of much of Hartford's central business district until the late nineteenth century when brick became the prevailing building material. Flush vertical boards cover most of the storefront, which also has recessed panels under double-hung sash windows and a transom above the entrance. A rectangular parapet sheathed in weatherboards tops the storefront and the rear of the building is expanded by a shed covered in decorative pressed metal. Dr. J. C. Bean had the building constructed at the turn of this century. The 1925 Sanborn Map lists this building as a battery repair shop. In 1935, Will Himes purchased this and the adjoining building for his grocery store. (C)
- 15. <u>118 E. Union St.</u> Like the adjoining one-story building, this two-story structure also evokes the early character of Hartford's central business district. Weatherboards cover the side elevations and the rectangular false parapet concealing a shallow gable roof, but the flush horizontal beaded boards sheathing the main facade suggest the builder wanted to give the front a more finely crafted appearance. Fixed four-pane windows flank the main entrance, which formerly had a two-tiered front porch, as evidenced by the door in the upper facade. A staircase to a second-story entrance at the side also has been removed. Dr. J. S. Bean had the building constructed at the turn of this century. Dr. Bean was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, and local legend states that the second-story interior was finished in mahogany that he acquired during his overseas military tour. In 1935, Will Himes purchased this and the adjoining building for his grocery store. (C)
- 16. Thomas House. 127 E. Washington St. James A. Thomas had this house constructed of red, common bond brick shortly after his marriage in 1868 to Mary Platt. The two-story L-shaped house with a tall one-story side wing set back from E. Washington St. was erected on a large corner lot with three one-story brick outbuildings (no longer standing) in the rear yard and a brick wall (also removed) around the property. The stylishness of the house, one of the most richly embellished in Hartford, reflected Thomas's standing as a successful local businessman who had established a saddlery and co-owned a mercantile shop prior to becoming a prosperous tobacco broker and farmer. The building displays the Italianate style in the prominent bracketed cornice of its cross-gable roof and very tall rectangular windows with unusual carved surrounds at the sides and below the sills. Most of the multi-paned double-hung sash windows are paired and those at the lower level and west gable end are further decorated with bracketed cornices. The house's main entrance was on the E. Washington St. facade, but the house as originally built also acknowledged its location opposite a corner of the courthouse square by an elaborate two-tiered veranda in the recess of the L facing Apple Alley and the courthouse. Although that recess now contains a twostory frame addition and the original slightly recessed entrance bay has been filled with brick and weatherboards, the one-story porch with box posts and continuous ribbon-like spandrels in the recess created by one-story wing remains

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the house. (C)

- 17. <u>Ohio County Jail</u>. 112 E. Washington St. Begun in the late 1930s and completed in 1941, this two-story masonry building was part of a program of public improvements sponsored by the federal Works Progress Administration in an effort to revive the local economy. The red brick veneer, panelled door and transom at the main entrance, six-over-six double-hung sash windows, and stone stringcourse and coping defining the flat parapet suggest neoclassical inspiration for the design of the front block housing offices and the jailer's residence. In contrast, the long one-story rear cell block resting on a raised basement is stuccoed and devoid of decoration. A square smokestack rises from the southwest corner of the building. The jail was closed early in 1988 and local governments currently are considering alternative uses for the building. **(C)**
- 18. Kentucky Theatre/Hartford City Hall. 114-116 E. Washington St. This multipurpose complex was constructed in the late 1930s as the first phase of a federal Works Progress Administration-sponsored program to revitalize Hartford. It is one of the most stylish of Hartford's 1930s buildings, exhibiting Art Deco motifs in the stylization of the rectilinear stone capitals capping the shallow piers across the main facade and the fluted stone panels above the entrances. Constructed of tile and veneered in pressed brick, the building originally accommodated a movie theater on the first floor of the larger block, as indicated by the marquee and ticket booth panelled in black carrara glass. Stone panels bearing the words "CITY HALL" and "FIRE STATION" indicate the original locations of Hartford's city hall on the second level and the fire department in the one-story side wing, respectively. Today, the main block is empty and in disrepair, but the former fire station has been adapted as town offices with the installation of a metal and glass front in place of the original garage doors. (C)

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counties of Ohio and Daviess and parts of the present Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Butler, Grayson and Breckinridge counties. The first county court, held July 2, 1799 in a private home near Hartford, designated the hamlet as the county seat.

Of the 29 municipalities recorded within the boundaries of present-day Kentucky, Hartford, with 74 citizens, was ranked by the United States Census of 1800 as the third-largest in the western region, surpassed only by Henderson and Russellville. In 1808, it became the third Western Kentucky town to incorporate, following Hardinsburg and Hopkinsville in 1804. Hartford was not officially mapped until 1816. however, when a plat was recorded showing the legal boundaries to incorporate the parcel conveyed as a gift to the county court by Madison on November 2, 1799. The donated parcel provided a four-acre public square for the county seat and surrounding streets and alleys. The public square included the present courthouse square, the adjoining block to the east now containing the jail and city hall, and a block to the south across Main Street. A governmental building had been erected on the square in two stages, beginning in 1799 with a one-story jail to which the second-story courtroom was added the following year. The jail was replaced in 1810 with a log building exclusively for that purpose and a new courthouse was constructed in 1813-By 1808, the square also contained a small clerk's office and, perhaps, an 15. academy building as well as a stray-pen for livestock. Most of the square remained a vacant commons until the 1860s when the county granted 99-year leases for commercial lots on the south side of Main Street.

Apparently, Gabriel Madison sold individual building lots directly to private individuals, who numbered around 100 at the time of incorporation. According to local historian McDowell A. Fogle, in 1808 Hartford had approximately thirty log and frame buildings, of which about ten were businesses, primarily on both sides of Main Street (then Market Street) between Union and Center Streets. These establishments included a tavern, post office, tannery and a few general stores. Fogle also locates businesses to the north on Clay St. and ferry landings on the Rough River at the end of Main and Clay Streets. During the 1820s, a store building at the corner of Clay and E. Union Streets also housed the post office and the local branch of the Frankfort, Kentucky-based Bank of the Commonwealth, the town's first financial institution. No trace remains of these earliest buildings.

Situated on a waterway in a fertile area, it was natural that this political center also should become a market center from which the surpluses yielded by the good farmland could be shipped elsewhere. Most of the county's residents relied upon agriculture, hunting, trapping and the area's rich timber resources for their livli-hoods. The primary crops were corn and tobacco which, with livestock, animal pelts and surplus cured meats, were traded in Hartford and the county's other settlements or shipped from Hartford, in part via the Rough River, to larger markets -- initially Bardstown and Lexington and then more frequently to sizeable towns on the Ohio River -- from which they got their supplies. After navigational improvements to the Rough River were completed in 1834, the shipping of tobacco to Ohio River markets became more profitable. Many farmers made their own cigars which they sold by the thousand;

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they shipped the rest of their tobacco in hogsheads for sale in Louisville and New Orleans.

In comparison to many other early Kentucky settlements, Hartford and the rest of Ohio County remained sparsely settled throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, yet the town's status as a county seat and commercial center created a demand for houses, churches and schools, in addition to new commercial buildings for an increasing number of businesses. The tradesmen and professionals responsible for the growth of the central business district focused on the courthouse square and Main St. had houses built for their families northeast and southwest of the town center. Prior to the Civil War, the neighborhood northeast of the Downtown Hartford Historic District also became home to Methodist and Baptist churches and the Hartford Seminary. This school established in 1839 quickly earned a reputation for its high standards and thereby enhanced the regional prominence of its small town. Although no antebellum buildings survive in the Downtown Hartford Historic District. photographs of such early buildings as the Commercial Hotel (begun in 1835 and formerly located at the north corner of Main and Center Streets) indicate that the conservatism that characterized the Greek Revival Hartford Seminary and eclectic 1840s Walker-Nall-Pirtle House (both in the Dld Town Historic District to the northeast) also typified the business district. Until the 1870s, most of downtown Hartford's buildings were constructed of wood, with brick used only for the prominent buildings such as the courthouse and Commercial Hotel.

Dhio County suffered economic deprivation throughout much of the Civil War, as did most of Kentucky. Although no major battles were fought here, the county witnessed many guerrilla raids. The war's greatest destruction in the county occurred in Hartford in 1864 in the course of a raid by Confederate General H. B. Lyon through Western Kentucky. At the time, the Dhio County Courthouse was one of several in the region serving as Union garrisons. Lyon captured and paroled the Union guards and burned the 1813-15 courthouse, but spared the small brick Clerk's Office (no longer standing) in the courthouse square.

Hartford's return to economic health following the war was hastened by two interrelated developments that ensured the area's growth for the next several decades -- the construction of the Louisville, Elizbethtown and Paducah Railroad through Ohio County in 1871 and the rapid expansion of coal mining in Ohio and neighboring counties. In contrast to most of the state's rail lines which ran north-south, the new railroad was part of the first east-west system outside the Louisville area which more effectively linked Kentucky's principal cities. When the first, wood burning locomotives arrived, former local Congressman Henry D. McHenry, the first to have invested heavily in the county's coal resources, successfully demonstrated to his friend and business associate, railroad owner Collis P. Huntington, that coal as a railroad fuel was superior to wood. The railroad's conversion to coal-burning locomotives ensured the quick and extensive development of the area's coal fields, which thus far had been disappointing.

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Unfortunately for Hartford, the county's first railroad was routed through the town of Beaver Dam five miles to the south. Although the rewards certainly would have been greater had the line gone to Hartford, the county seat nevertheless benefitted from the railroad's proximity and the boost it gave to the area's coal mining and other industries. In his <u>History of Kentucky</u>, Collins attested to Hartford's viability in the early 1870s with his account of the town's population of around 400, two churches, six lawyers, six physicians, two taverns, fifteen stores, and ten mechanics shops. Throughout the last decades of the century, local businesses prospered and multiplied, prompting a spate of new construction and the establishment of local financial institutions.

In the Downtown Hartford Historic District, the earliest surviving evidence of Hartford's post-war rebound is the brick, L-shaped Thomas House built around 1870 opposite the east corner of the courthouse square. As the oldest building in the district, the house reveals both the endurance of local antebellum building practices in its traditional basic form and a new exuberance in the abundant use of fashionable decorative motifs reflective of the success of the house's owner. prosperous merchant James A. Thomas. At about the same time Thomas's house neared completion, a group of local businessmen were attempting to transform the central business district, as revealed by an 1870 deed for the purchase of property intended as the site of a row of four commercial units. Sometime during the 1870s, early frame buildings were razed so that the two-story brick row of retail shops could be constructed on the southwest side of Main St., next to the Hartford House Hotel (no longer standing). In the restrained stylishness of their faintly neoclassical cast iron fronts, attic vents and flat parapet roofs enhancing their two-story height, these buildings typified their period and the economic stratum that produced them. The two northernmost units, which housed Fair & Company's dry goods and clothing store for many years beginning in 1901, have been torn down, and another had its front reconstructed in the 1920s, but one continues to convey its historic character in its original upper main facade. Prosperity and the popularity of brick buildings with cast iron fronts endured in downtown Hartford throughout the remainder of the century, as reflected by the Hartford Grocery Company's circa 1890 building and the turn-of-the century Thomas Brothers grocery and hardware store which retain their original metal elements ornamented with neoclassical motifs. Also dating from the turn of the century, the two gable-front wooden buildings with rectangular false parapets at 116 and 118 E. Union St. indicate that plainer, less substantial building types prevailed as well, although brick had become the preferred material for Hartford's image-setting Main St.

At the beginning of the new century, Hartford foresaw nothing but success in maintaining its dual role as civic center and area market serving both its own citizens and those drawn to town on legal and business matters. A good deal of the town's merchandise came by wagon from the rail depot at Beaver Dam, although much continued to be ferried from wholesale houses in Evansville via a steamboat packet line operating on the Rough River. In addition to the well-established Fair & Company, Thomas Brothers and James A. Thomas, the approximately thirty firms

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operating in the county seat included Carson & Company (dry goods, clothing and furniture), J. E. Fogle & Co. (dry goods and clothing), Pate Brothers (groceries), George Klein (hardware and notions), Dyer White (hardware and groceries), James H. Williams (drugs), Z. Wayne Griffin & Bros. (drugs), Mrs. Anna Lewis (millinery), Hartford Grocery Company, J. C. Riley's Meat Shop, and James H. Patton and Henry Field, (livery and transfer) -- all located on or near Main St. There also were three hotels and two newspapers. The leading industries included a flour and saw mill and wool carding plant at the old dam at the foot of Union St., a sawmill and lumber yard on the present site of the Water Works at the foot of Main St., three blacksmithing and woodworking shops, a new tobacco warehouse on Clay St., and W. F. Schapmire's new job printing plant.

Continued prosperity characterized the 1900s in Hartford, with a population increase to more than 1,000 by 1910, major improvements in public services and continued development in the central business district. According to an article in a special 1911 "Industrial, Historical and Illustrated" issue of The Hartford Republican, the town was proud of its electricity, water works, and four miles of sewerage recently completed within the city limits. The largest construction project in the central business district was the three-story brick building at the corner of Main St. and Center St., next to the courthouse, which was erected as new quarters for the Commercial Hotel, the new First National Bank, and shops and professional Although this landmark was razed and replaced with the Likens Building in offices. the 1930s, the era's most prominent building for a single merchant, Carson & Company, remains an important resource of the Downtown Hartford Historic District. Built in 1903, the two-story L-shaped brick building with tall corbelled pendant cornices accommodated the retailer's grocery, dry goods and furniture departments on its first floor, while the second floor served as a lodge hall for the Knights of Pythias and Free and Accepted Masons. Perhaps Hartford's most significant development of the first decade of the century was the construction at long last of a rail line. Thirty-five years of efforts by Hartford's leaders to promote a branch line to the county seat met success in 1910 when the Louisville & Nashville Railroad completed the Madisonville, Hartford & Eastern branch line through Hartford from Ellmitch to Earlington in neighboring Hopkins County in order to provide a more direct route between the Western Kentucky coal fields and Louisville.

Certainly the new rail line contributed to Hartford's economic health by facilitating the shipment of goods to and from the town, as evidenced by new commercial buildings on Clay St. near the rail depot (see Old Town Historic District nomination). The Downtown Hartford Historic District, however, acquired only one new building during the 1910s and 1920s, despite its viability as a commercial center. Established businesses such as Carson & Company prospered, while others changed hands or closed as their owners retired or turned to new endeavors. New businesses in existing storefronts included Luther Leach and Tom Likens' grocery store at 214 Main St. and, at 211-213 Main St., Arthur Petty's restaurant followed by J. C. Iler's grocery store. The building at 211-213 Main St. also housed J. W. Ford's Livery Barn, which competed with the neighboring livery operated by Fred and Blanche Cooper during

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the 1910s and into the 1920s on the lot separating 211-213 Main St. and Thomas Brothers.

The ascendancy of the automobile significantly altered the face of the historic district and ultimately eliminated the need for the passenger rail service that the town had sought for so long. In the 1920s, the liveries disappeared, Ford's becoming Taylor & Morris Motor Company. Commercial developer R. B. Martin had the one-story building at 215 Main St. built in 1921 for his long-term tenant Acton Brothers Ford Motor Company, and in 1930, Cecil P. Taylor (of Taylor & Morris) and Henry Nall Schultz formed Quality Chevrolet Company, which purchased 211-213 Main St. and reconstructed it as the existing two-story brick building for their showroom and offices. Also in 1930, at the intersection of Main and Union Streets, Standard Oil Company built a gasoline station that was the first of its kind in Hartford and stereotypical of the building type's early phase in its small boxy form and hipped roof extended to form a canopy over the pumps. In addition to the Chevrolet showroom and Standard Oil Station, the spate of commercial development at the close of the decade included a new building for W. F. Schapmire Printing Co., the two-story Barrass-Schroader Building, and reconstruction of the front of 220 Main St. As in most small and moderately-scaled commercial projects built across the country during the 1920s and 1930s, these new buildings reflected the influences of the concurrent mainstream architectural tendencies toward streamlining and neoclassicism through facades of wire brick and simple flat patterns in brick, often in a contrasting color, to articulate fenestration, floor divisions and cornices.

Although the Bank of Hartford and Ohio County Bank had closed in 1926, the flurry of construction around 1930 suggests that the nation's declining financial situation of the late 1920s and early 1930s and the 1929 stock market crash in particular did not immediately destroy the hinterland's confidence in its local economy. Within a very few years, however, local capital investments in retail trade construction came to a halt as national unemployment figures hovered around thirty percent, the coal industry faltered, and Hartford's two remaining financial institutions -- First National Bank and Hartford Deposit Bank -- ceased operations. Stagnation persisted until the late 1930s when the federal government intervened. First the Civilian Conservation Corps sponsored large tree planting and soil conservation projects that employed many Ohio Countians; and then the Works Progress Administration announced funding for numerous public improvements in Hartford, including a new courthouse, jail, city hall, a graded school, waterworks, sewers, and street repaving.

The biggest projects were concentrated in the Downtown Hartford Historic District, where the courthouse, jail and city hall transformed the center of the town. Not only did these projects provide badly needed modern facilities for county and town offices, including a fire station, but the most prominent component of the city hall complex was the Kentucky Theatre, Hartford's first cultural center independent of a school. Although the buildings' designers (architect Walter Scott Roberts and engineers Wescott & Thornton) and general contractor (W. C. McClellan) were from

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Bowling Green and Owensboro, respectively, most of the labor for the projects was Construction of the theatre/city hall complex and jail did not begin until local. 1938 and work on the courthouse not until 1940, but the assurance of healthy payrolls, much of which certainly would be spent locally, apparently was sufficient to prompt new private investment. In 1937, the Likens Building became Hartford's first major construction project since the onset of the Depression. Although distinctive due to its white architectural accents and location at a prominent intersection next to the courthouse square, the Likens Building resembles downtown projects of the previous decade in its reserved design, which likely is indicative as much of limited financial resources as of a conservatism tied to Hartford's distance from trendsetting urban centers and their more stylish buildings. Thus, the contrast of the architect-designed WPA buildings to the ubiguitous commercial stock is distinct. The Moderne and Art Deco styles chosen for the Ohio County Courthouse and Kentucky Theatre/Hartford City Hall were favorites among WPA architects perhaps because of their simple lines and cleanly incised flat surfaces that convey a sense of grandeur, which also is a quality of the Neoclassical Revival, the other favored Depression-era style selected for the jail. As in so many communities across Western Kentucky and the rest of the country, the benefit of these public works projects, beyond providing modern facilities, was twofold -- a boost to the local economy and an architecturally distinctive symbol of the town's cultural function.

The First National Bank and the Hartford Deposit Bank reopened before completion of the WPA projects and by the end of World War II the local economy was on firm footing. Since then, Hartford's fortunes have fluctuated with trends in the coal industry and population shifts away from rural areas. In downtown Hartford, the desire to be modern has resulted in radical remodelling and replacement of many early buildings, especially in three of the blocks facing the courthouse square. Fortunately, more than two commercial blocks on Main St. and the WPA buildings, now designated the Downtown Hartford Historic District, retain integrity sufficient to represent the area's architectural and historical development from the late 1860s to the end of the Depression.

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boundary follows legal property lines in order to include all property historically associated with a particular resource except for two instances: at block 33, lot 3, so that the wooded northeast end of the lot not in keeping with the character of the district is excluded; and at block 32, lot 8, in order to exclude intrusive parking lots at the northeast and southwest end of the lot.







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The following information applies to all of the photographs: 1) Downtown Hartford Historic District 2) Hartford, Kentucky 3) C. R. Brown 4) July 1987 5) Kentucky Heritage Council 1) Southeast side of 100 block of E. Washington St. (1)to the northeast 1) Kentucky Theatre/Hartford City Hall, 114-116 E. Washington St. (entry 18) (2)6) to the northeast (3)Thomas House, 127 E. Washington St. (entry 16) 1) to the west 6) (4) 1) Northeast side of Main St. to the northwest 1) Ohio County Courthouse (entry 13) (5)6) to the north (6)1) Northwest side of Center St. (Likens Building on left) to the north (7)1) Northeast side of 100 and 200 blocks of Main St. 6) to the northwest (8)1) Hartford Grocery Company, 219-221 Main St. (entry 10) 6) to the north (9)1) Thomas Brothers, 201 Main St. (entry 7) to the north (10) 1) Southeast side of 100 block of E. Union St. (entries 14 and 15 in background) 6) to the northeast (11) 1) 116 (right) and 118 E. Union St. (entries 14 and 15) 6) to the south (12) 1) Northwest side of 100 block of E. Union St. (Standard Oil Station on left) 6) to the north

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- (13) 1) Northeast side of 100 block of Main St. (entries 5 and 6 to right)
  6) to the northwest
- (14) 1) Southwest side of 200 block of Main St.b) to the west
- (15) 1) Northwest side of 100 block of W. Center St. (wing of Carson & Company, entry 3, in middle)
  - 6) to the southwest



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