

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 25 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 21 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Greensburg Bank Building
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East Court Street
CITY, TOWN Greensburg VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE 087
STATE Kentucky 021 Green

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. Robert L. Shuffett
STREET & NUMBER East Court Street
CITY, TOWN Greensburg VICINITY OF STATE Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Green County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER West Court Street
CITY, TOWN Greensburg STATE Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky
DATE 1971
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission
CITY, TOWN Frankfort STATE Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Greensburg Bank Building sits on the corner of East Court Street and South Main Street in the main public square of the city. It is directly across in an easterly direction from the well-known original Green County Courthouse. Constructed in 1799, it is the oldest surviving courthouse building in the United States west of the Appalachian Mountains (entered on the National Register on April 10, 1972).

The former bank building, whose original construction was completed in 1818, is two-story, of native limestone. The northwest (front) facade is two-bay with the entrance at the northern end. All bays are topped with flat arches. According to all local sources of information, the gable is an original feature. The southwest (rear) ends exhibits an interior chimney with two small windows at the second level on either side of the chimney.

The structure formerly known as "Allen's Inn" on the eastern side of the Bank Building was constructed in 1806 and for many years was separated from the Bank by a narrow opening approximately twelve feet wide. This open space was enclosed in 1877 when William N. Vaughn acquired this property and all three buildings were also joined under a single roof at that same time.

The inside of the Bank Building has been altered until no trace of original material show except in the window casements.

The boundaries of the nomination include the building site.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1817-1818

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Greensburg Bank Building is worthy of recognition because of the prominent role that it has played in the early historical development of Greensburg and Green County, Kentucky. Housed in it between 1818 and 1870 were three different banks, in each case serving as the only bank in the community at that time. In the latter two cases it served as a state bank, one of only twelve branches in the entire Commonwealth.

This building was originally constructed as a bank building. In 1818, the Greensburg Independent Bank, established by an act of the Kentucky General Assembly, became one of the first in Kentucky. Under the leadership of James Allen, President, who originally owned this land, William D. Barret, cashier, and James S. Sympson, clerk, this bank closed after about one year of operation. James Allen is given credit for conducting its business well.

In 1821, a branch of the Bank of the Commonwealth of Kentucky was opened in this building. It was chartered to operate for 20 years with a capital of \$2,000,000. Greensburg was one of only 12 branches throughout the state with the main bank in Frankfort, the capital city. Although its charter ran until 1841, the Bank of the Commonwealth died in 1830 as a result of the banking crisis which developed in Kentucky during that period because of the "Old Court-New Court" controversy and the resulting depreciation of its currency. It is said that Mentor Graham, later a teacher of Abraham Lincoln in Illinois, lost his life's savings (\$400) there in a failure in 1823. This loss may have been one cause for his relocation to Illinois.

The third bank operated in this building was chartered by the 1834-35 Kentucky General Assembly. This was a branch of the Bank of Kentucky. The first president was James M. S. McCorkle, William D. Barrett was cashier, and William B. Allen was clerk. This last bank survived until approximately 1870. When Kentucky was invaded by Confederate forces under General Simon Bolivar Buckner during the Civil War in the fall of 1861, on the approach of the advance column, the president of the bank at that time, Edward H. Hobson, collected the banks' funds, gold, silver, and currency to the amount of \$140,000, and on horseback at night with five companions, carried it to Lebanon, Kentucky, boarded the train, and delivered the entire amount to Virgil McKnight, cashier of the Bank of Louisville. Hobson was highly commended by McKnight for his action. Later Hobson became a Union General who fought against General John Hunt Morgan, C.S.A., many times.

From about 1877 until 1944 this property was owned by William N. Vaughn and his heirs. During this time it was joined to the building next to it which was formerly known as

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lowe, Marshall and Gary Scott. Green County Historical Factbook. Greensburg, Kentucky: Greensburg Printing and Office Supply, 1970.

Information secured from Mr. & Mrs. Joe DeSpain, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Phillips, Samuel W. Moore and others in Green County, Kentucky.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY (Approximately .028 acres) less than 1 acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Summersville Kentucky Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 6,3,2,8,10 4,1,2,4,6,0,0

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on East Court Street which is the northwest corner of the building; extending in an easterly direction fronting on East Court Street for a distance of approximately thirty feet to the beginning of the next building;

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Calvin P. Jones, Senior Historian

April 2, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

(502) 564-3741

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Calvin P. Jones

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6-18-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Shull
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-21-79

Calvin P. Jones
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

11-21-79

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Greensburg Bank Building

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"Allen's Inn". In the estate settlement in 1944 it was purchased by Vernon Shuffett, an attorney, and is still owned by his heirs. It is known locally as "The Old Vaughn Home." It is currently used as a beauty shop.

"Allens Inn" will also be nominated for inclusion in the National Register at a later date.

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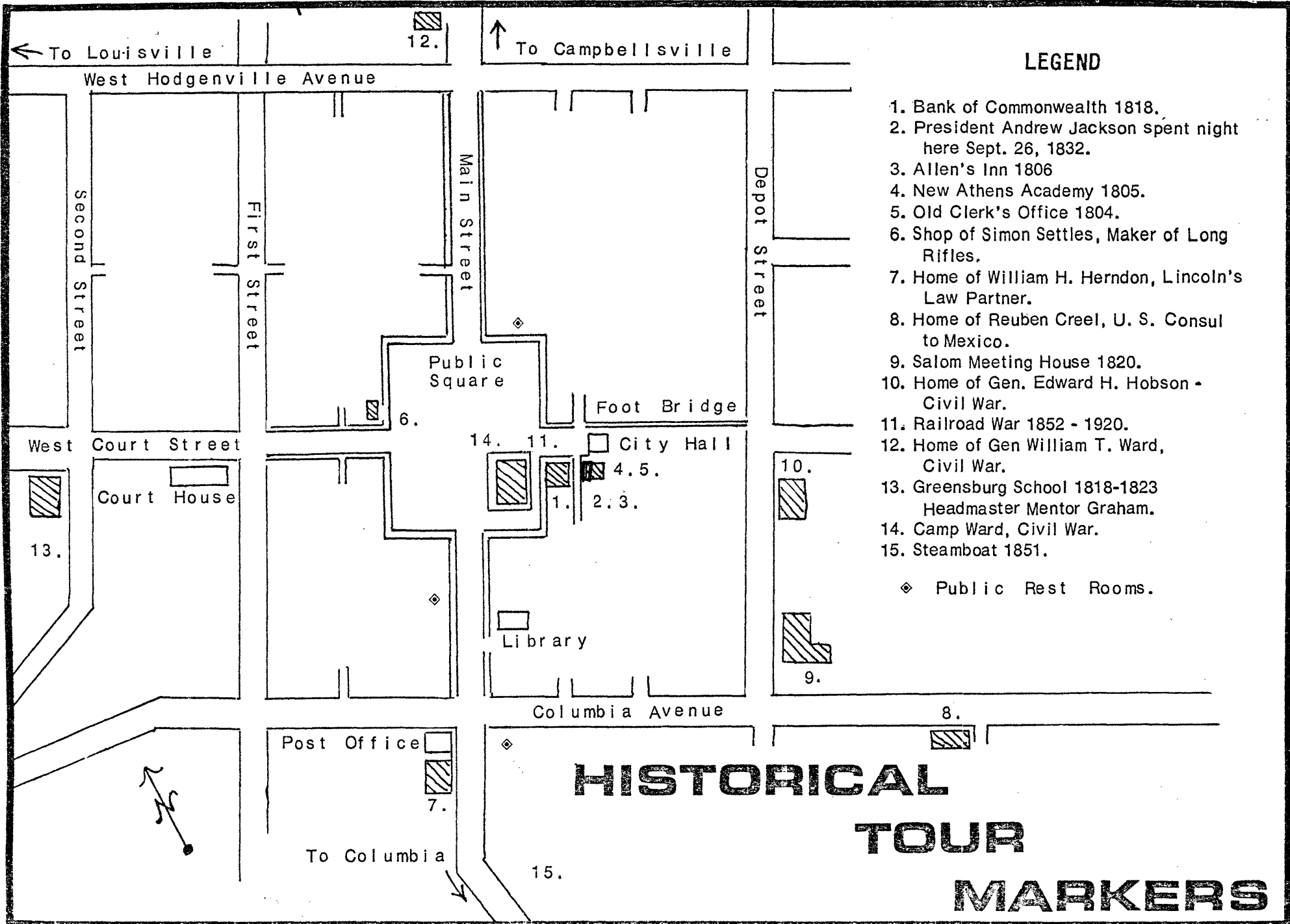
Greensburg Bank Building

CONTINUATION SHEET

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extending from this imaginary point in a south easterly direction to the imaginary southeast corner of the building for a distance of approximately forty-two feet; extending from this point in a westerly direction for approximately thirty feet which is the back side of the building; extending in a northwesterly direction for approximately forty-two feet to the beginning point.



LEGEND

- 1. Bank of Commonwealth 1818.
 - 2. President Andrew Jackson spent night here Sept. 26, 1832.
 - 3. Allen's Inn 1806
 - 4. New Athens Academy 1805.
 - 5. Old Clerk's Office 1804.
 - 6. Shop of Simon Settles, Maker of Long Rifles.
 - 7. Home of William H. Herndon, Lincoln's Law Partner.
 - 8. Home of Reuben Creel, U. S. Consul to Mexico.
 - 9. Salom Meeting House 1820.
 - 10. Home of Gen. Edward H. Hobson - Civil War.
 - 11. Railroad War 1852 - 1920.
 - 12. Home of Gen William T. Ward, Civil War.
 - 13. Greensburg School 1818-1823 Headmaster Mentor Graham.
 - 14. Camp Ward, Civil War.
 - 15. Steamboat 1851.
- ♦ Public Rest Rooms.

**HISTORICAL
TOUR
MARKERS**

Greensburg Bank Building
of Green County, Kentucky JUN 25 1979
Map No. 2
Historical Tour Markers Map
Site located in red.