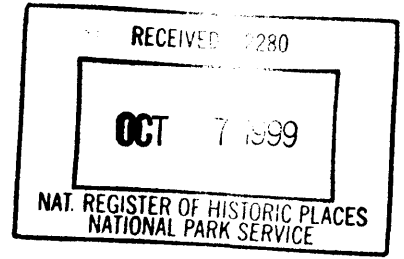


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jellico Commercial Historic District

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number roughly along North and South Main streets

NA not for publication

city or town Jellico

NA vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Campbell code 013 zip code 37762

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Hays
Signature of certifying official/Title

10/4/99
Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

11/12/99

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
30	5	buildings
		sites
1		structures
1		objects
32	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business

GOVERNMENT: city hall

GOVERNMENT: post office

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facilities

TRANSPORTATION: road related

COMMERCE: business

GOVERNMENT: post office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: commercial vernacular forms

Classical Revival

Beaux Arts

foundation CONCRETE, BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD; METAL; STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Industry

Period of Significance

circa 1890 - circa 1949

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Multiple; Unknown; Mesker, George, Ironworks

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

East Tennessee Development District

Jellico Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Campbell County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 10 acres

Jellico West 338 SW

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>756820</u>	<u>4052760</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>757110</u>	<u>4053060</u>

3	<u>16</u>	<u>757100</u>	<u>4052720</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>16</u>	<u>756680</u>	<u>4052680</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kimberley Murphy/Historic Preservation Planner
organization East Tennessee Development District date January 1999
street & number Post Office Box 19806 telephone 423/584-8553
city or town Knoxville state TN zip code 37939

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple, see continuation sheets
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Jellico Commercial Historic District
Campbell County, Tennessee

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The city of Jellico is in northern Campbell County, Tennessee, on the Kentucky border. The town straddles the state line but is incorporated only in Tennessee. It is located at the eastern base of Jellico Mountain in the northern section of the Cumberland Mountains. The town is located along the historic Dixie Highway, now US Highway 25W, and has interchange access to US Interstate 75.

Campbell County's terrain is rugged and mountainous. The topography throughout the county has been altered by myriad mining operations in the last century. The ridges display the tell-tale scars of strip mining, which has left bands of exposed soil on the mountain peaks.

Jellico evolved as a hub city for railroads and mining companies between 1883 and 1950, supporting the mines at Newcomb, Wooldridge and Oswego in Campbell County, Tennessee, and Kensee and Proctor in Whitley County, Kentucky. The buildings in the central business district reflect the town's roll as a jobbing center and were built during the city's period of significance, between 1890 and 1949.

The proposed historic district is L-shaped and includes South Main Street (originally called Fifth Street) between Bacon Street and North Main Street and turns north along North Main Street from South Main Street to Second Street, extending within one block of the Kentucky state line. The northern cornerstone of the district is the National Register-listed Post Office and Mine Rescue Station at 300 Main Street [NR listed 1984].

The central business district grew up around the railroad yards; North Main Street runs parallel to the site of the original freight depot. The Jellico Commercial Historic District wraps around the site of the former rail yards and is comprised of thirty-seven buildings constructed between 1890 and 1998; thirty-two were built prior to 1949 and most are contributing. Most are two stories and of brick construction. There is one contributing object, a neon sign projecting from one of the buildings; and one contributing structure, a narrow brick wall with a wood door that screens an alley between two structures on South Main Street. Outside the historic district is a small memorial park and shaded parking lot located on the site of the railroad depot. The railroads are no longer used and some modern commercial development has occurred on the site of the freight depot and rail yards.

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Jellico Commercial Historic District
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The buildings retain the original brick bulkheads that defined the original storefronts. There was some limited urban renewal in the mid-1960s or early 1970s and many of the original wood frame storefronts have been replaced with metal frame windows and doors that rest on the original bulkheads. The city installed flat-roofed metal awnings around 1964 that are attached to the buildings at the transom height and supported on the sidewalk by metal poles. Many of the buildings were originally constructed with pressed metal (or cast iron) fronts manufactured by the George L. Mesker and Company Iron Works of Evansville, Indiana. Some retain their metal fronts, or portions of them; others are possibly extant behind circa 1965 siding. All but one of the buildings in the district are of brick construction and most are decorated with ashlar, limestone, pressed metal, wood, and/or decorative brick designs.

Most of the changes to the buildings have occurred to the street-level storefronts, so many of the second-story facades are intact. A few second-story windows have been inappropriately replaced with wrongly sized modern windows, but because they retain the original sills, lintels and hood molding, these changes are easily reversible.

The district has a strong sense of historic time and place. The buildings come together to form an excellent example of a mid-20th century town. In order to be considered contributing, the resource must have been built before 1949 and should display integrity of form, design and plan. Noncontributing resources have been either altered to the point that they are no longer recognizable as being of the period or they were constructed outside of the period of significance. It is felt that a National Register designation will preserve what is original and encourage the restoration of what may be missing or hidden. Contributing structures are designated "C"; non-contributing structures are designated "NC."

INVENTORY

Description (With known historical addresses in parenthesis and *current building use/name* at the end of the description.)

North Main Street

1. **300 North Main Street, Post Office and Mine Rescue Station.** This two-story structure of cut limestone was built in 1915 and echoes the Beaux Arts classicism that was popular in the early part of the twentieth century. The building was constructed under the

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Jellico Commercial Historic District
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supervision of Oscar Wenderoth, architect, and Secretary of the Treasury William McAdoo. The building has five bays with arched windows and was listed in the National Register on February 10, 1984. *USPO. C*

2. North Main Street was constructed as a hotel circa 1900. The three-story commercial building is constructed of brick with a primary facade on the first floor of ashlar. A yellow-brick facade decorates the upper stories of the west (primary) and north elevations. The building retains its original wood-framed windows with brick jack arches and limestone keystones. The original entry is on the northwest corner of the building and has a Classical Revival style surround. The cornice is dentilated and there is a decorative scrolled pediment of cast concrete above the cornice. *Interstate 2000. C*

3. 290 North Main Street, the Union Bank is a circa 1970 metal and brick facade that spans at least three historic storefronts. The buildings have been irreparably altered from their original form and plan. *Union Bank. NC*

4. 286 North Main Street is a circa 1900 two-and-one-half-story brick commercial building with original triple-hung six-over-six-over-three wood sash windows on stone sills. The facade is emphasized by recessed brick and rows of decorative brick detailing. The original storefront retains brick bulkheads, but the door and windows are circa 1965 glass and aluminum replacements. The original support columns are visible inside the windows and the transom above the storefront appears to be intact but covered with metal siding. The circa 1964 sidewalk canopy extends over the sidewalk. *Jellico Video. C*

5. North Main Street is a circa 1900 two-story brick commercial building with four bays. It originally had a metal storefront, which was replaced with a concrete block wall. The upper story contains decorative brickwork with an ashlar stringcourse and stone lintels above the windows. The facade was covered in the 1940s or 1950s with structural glass of beige and blue. The interior has been gutted by fire and all that remains are the front and rear walls. *Vacant. NC*

6. 221 (276) North Main Street is a two-story, four-bay brick commercial building constructed circa 1900 with a stepped parapet. It rests on a stone foundation. The windows are circa 1990 replacement windows, but the original openings have ashlar hood molding. Circa 1970 windows and doors rest on the original brick bulkheads. The second-story windows have

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Jellico Commercial Historic District
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been replaced with metal windows and surrounded by corrugated metal fill. *Ideal Flower and Gifts and Jan's Snip Shop.* C

7. **268 (221) North Main Street**, circa 1900, is of brick construction and has three bays with paired wood sash 1/1 windows. The windows have ashlar hood molding identical to those on #6. The facade has three bays and originally had an iron storefront manufactured by the George Mesker Iron Works. A structural glass and aluminum front was added to the first story facade circa 1945. The glass storefront was replaced in the 1960s or 1970s with an aluminum and glass storefront resting on brick bulkheads. *Associates in Eyecare.* C

7a. Rexall drugstore sign of glass and metal construction with neon lighting, dating from circa 1940. The sign reads "Central Drugs" in block letters centered above and below the brand name "Rexall" in the copyrighted script. The sign is edged in chrome and is attached to the building with iron bars and cables. Sets on building #7. C

8. **260 (268) North Main Street** is identical to 268 Main Street (#7) but has only two bays. The buildings are divided by a vertical brick buttress at the middle and at both outside corners. The windows are paired 4/4 wood sash windows. There is a circa 1945 metal awning across the facade. *LaFollette Home Health Care.* C

9. **256 North Main Street** has two-stories, six-bays and is of red brick construction with yellow brick decoration forming a frieze. The upper story windows have been replaced with metal and glass windows within the yellow brick surrounds. The original storefront has been replaced with a metal and glass storefront on brick bulkheads which have been covered with plywood. There is a circa 1964 metal canopy above the sidewalk. The building was constructed circa 1900. *Ruby's Crafts/Ruby's Deli.* C

10. **202 (256) North Main Street** is circa 1900 a three-story three-bay brick structure with 1/1 double hung wood sash windows in the third story with decorative yellow brick arches. The second story windows have been replaced with 2/2 windows of aluminum but retain the yellow brick segmental arches. The storefront retains the original bulkheads with circa 1970 aluminum and glass windows and entry. There is a circa 1964 metal canopy above the sidewalk. *Ruby's & Jim's Suds and Duds.* C

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11. **200 (212) North Main Street** is a circa 1940 one story brick structure with large display windows on concrete sills on the primary and south elevations. The metal and glass door is centered between the two display windows on the primary elevation. There is a circa 1964 metal canopy above the sidewalk. *Video Express. C*

12. **188 (113) North Main Street** is four bays wide and has a stucco exterior and 1/1 arched double-hung wood sash windows. The storefront is recessed and has aluminum and glass display windows and doors. The upper facade is divided into two bays by a brick pilaster that also frames the exterior corners. The building was built circa 1900. *Bill's Dollar Store #830. C*

13. **North Main Street** is a two story brick building that was covered with aluminum siding circa 1964. There are two aluminum frame windows and an aluminum and glass storefront rests on brick bulkheads. It is occupied by the same business that is located in #12. *Bill's Dollar Store #830. NC*

14. **116 (110-112) North Main Street** is the Jenkins Building built in 1919. It has a concrete foundation, wire brick walls, and a tri-part entry with original wood and glass doors and display windows. The interior retains the pressed metal ceiling and hardwood floors in the hardware store (south storefront). Nine over one windows are grouped in fours. There is an opening in the center section, between the windows, that is covered with metal screening. There is a circa 1964 metal canopy above the sidewalk. *Jellico Flowers/Jellico Hardware. C*

15. **North Main Street** retains the original circa 1890 George Mesker Ironworks storefront. It has two stories and three bays with a metal cornice and decorative brickwork. There are applied stone pediments above the windows, and stone lintels. The building retains the original cast metal cornice at the roofline. The facade is punctuated with decorative brick inserts. The only door has been replaced with a metal door. The triple-hung windows are circa 1980 replacements in the original surrounds. *Vacant. C*

16. **116 North Main Street** was constructed circa 1890 and is nearly identical to #15, but the pediments above the windows have segmental angles. The decorative brickwork, stonework, and metal cornices are identical. It also retains the original George Mesker Ironworks storefront. *Zeahini Heating and Cooling/Bill Jones Real Estate. C*

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17. **117 North Main Street** was completed in 1998. It is a one-story brick building with a central garage bay with two windows evenly spaced on either side. The brick has been textured. *City of Jellico. NC*

South Main Street

18. **(111) South Main Street (111 Fifth Street)** is a circa 1890 three story metal-front building with egg and dart cornice, stone sills, and decorative brickwork. The 1/1 windows have yellow brick surrounds and segmental arch hood molding. While the original door has been replaced with a circa 1970 metal and glass door, the original metal storefront manufactured by George Mesker Ironworks is intact. *Used Treasures. C*

19. **144 South Main Street** is a circa 1890 metal front building with decorative brickwork that includes egg and dart detailing at the frieze. There are 1/1 windows with stone sills and arched lintels. There is a central arched windows that has been filled in at the top. The building was constructed with a central raised parapet above the middle window. A false front has been added using brick infill, probably circa 1920. *Jellico New and Used Furniture. C*

20. **South Main Street** is a circa 1890 two-story metal front building of wire brick construction with circa 1970 metal windows and door resting on the original bulkhead configuration. The windows are 1/1 wood windows with stone lintels and sills. There is decorative brickwork at the cornice. The entire facade has been painted. *Mary's Kitchen. C*

21. **107 South Main Street** is a circa 1890 two story brick building that appears to have been pressure washed. The original storefront divisions remain intact with bulkheads and a walk up door, but the individual members were replaced circa 1990. There is decorative brickwork at the cornice. *Dayspring Family Health Care. C*

21a. There is a narrow (approximately three feet) circa 1900 brick wall with a wood door screening the alley between #21 and #22. It has a decorative water table and a checkerboard pattern with stone borders. **C**

22. **113 South Main Street** is a circa 1890 two story building encompassing two storefronts with a central walk-up door. The upper story windows in the east elevation are 1/1 wood sash windows and may be original. The upper story windows of the west elevation have been

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replaced. The wood and glass storefronts have stone sills on brick bulkheads and appear to be original. The display windows in each storefront are comprised of a square plate glass window with a two-light transom above. There is a recessed entry between the bulkheads. The primary entrance in the west storefront has been replaced with circa 1970 metal and glass door. The building has a concrete foundation. *Bill's Barber Shop and City of Jellico. C*

23. 145 South Main Street is a circa 1890 two story four bay brick building with 1/1 wood windows, stone lintels and sills and decorative brickwork on the facade. The transoms have a stone frieze course. There is evidence of a wood frame front covered by the aluminum framing of the circa 1970 storefront. There is a fabric awning across the storefront. *Seventh Day Adventist Building. C*

24. 167 (119) South Main Street is a circa 1920 one story brick building with a false parapet front and decorative concrete elements. It retains the original storefront configuration with a centered wood and glass entry door between two display windows on brick bulkheads. The windows and door have transoms and retain the original metal framing. *Hair Production. C*

25. 173 (121) South Main Street is a circa 1925 one story false front wire brick building with a recessed entry between two bulkheads of yellow brick construction. The building retains the original glass frieze and original metal framing around the windows. There is a fabric awning across the front. *Steve Morgan CPA. C*

26. 189 South Main Street is a circa 1900 four-bay two story brick building with 1/1 replacement windows in original arched surrounds. The storefront retains the original wood frame windows with stone sills on original bulkheads. There is prism glass frieze above the windows. The original door was replaced circa 1990. There is a fabric awing across the storefront. *Jellico Housing Authority. C*

27. 213 (203) South Main Street is a circa 1900 two-bay two story brick building with a decorative metal cornice. The 1/1 windows have been replaced, but are located in the original surrounds with wood lintels and stone brackets and sills. The storefront retains the original metal front. There is a circa 1964 metal canopy across the primary elevation. *Appalachia Health Services. C*

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Jellico Commercial Historic District
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28-30. 235-243 (205-209) South Main Street is comprised of three identical circa 1900 buildings that follow the curvature of the roadway and were clearly built as one unit. The buildings were constructed as the American Raincoat Company factory but have been the Llewellyn Furniture Company since 1911. The block is two stories with decorative brickwork at the cornices and a stepped roofline marking each division. The windows are 1/1 wood windows with wood frames and transoms. All have original stone lintels and sills. There is a stone frieze course above the windows. The storefronts have been replaced with circa 1970 metal and glass windows and doors. There is a 1964 metal canopy attached to the storefronts. *Jellico Drug Store.* **3 C**

31. 243 (213) South Main Street is a circa 1920 one story brick building that may have served as a garage or gas station along the Dixie Highway. It has two garage bays, one of which has been converted to a storefront with circa 1970 aluminum and glass windows and doors. There is a decorative brick course above the doors and below the cornice. The building is laid up in 5-course common bond with the header rows emphasized by the use of darker brick. *Judy's Hair and Tanning Salon.* **C**

32. 248 South Main Street is a circa 1940 Coca-Cola Building, constructed of brick with a four-bay two-story central section flanked by one story wings on either side. The exterior has been stuccoed and retains the painted red trim and painted sign that reads "Coca-Cola Bottling Works" above the windows in the primary elevation. There is a recessed entrance with a circa 1940 streamlined round porch canopy. There is a large window wall framed in aluminum west of the primary entrance. A smaller window wall is located east of the entrance. The windows in the upper story are original aluminum frame windows with concrete sills and lintels. There are one story wings on either side of the two story section, each with a garage bay for receiving delivery trucks. *Sassy Scissors Salon and Tan.* **C**

33. 315 South Main Street is a circa 1900 two-bay two story brick building with brick quoins emphasizing the corners and decorative diamond patterns of yellow brick in the primary elevation. The windows in the second story were replaced circa 1970 with metal and glass windows. The storefront retains the original sloped floor leading to a recessed entry, but the door has been replaced and steps have been constructed. The west elevation has a faded painted sign advertising Coca-Cola. *Campbell County Clerk.* **C**

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Jellico Commercial Historic District
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34. **(284) South Main Street** is a one story brick building built circa 1980. *Unique Hair Design.* NC

35. **300 (375) South Main Street**, the Jellico Motor Company, is a one story concrete block building built circa 1949 on the Dixie Highway. It may originally have served as a service station, as it has two garage bays facing the highway. The primary entrance is located on the northeast corner of the building, which is chamfered. A large display windows is located on the east elevation. There is a circa 1970 canopied ell of concrete block construction that serves as a service bay for the auto dealership that occupies the building. A noncontributing interior lit plastic "Ford" sign is located on a twenty foot metal post adjacent to the sidewalk. The building is contributing. *Jellico Motor Company.* C

North Commerce Street

36. **North Commerce Street.** Old City Hall is a circa 1909 three-bay two story civic building of brick construction. Interesting decorative features include stone hood molding and stone or concrete caps across raised brick elements in the primary (east) elevation. The building has 1/1 wood frame windows on stone stills. The original entrance is not extant, but was original recessed slightly. There was a small garage bay north of the entrance in the primary elevation. The roof is stepped and emphasized with decorative stone or concrete caps. *City of Jellico.* C

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Jellico Commercial Historic District
Campbell County, Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jellico Commercial Historic District is being nominated under National Register criterion A in the areas of commerce and industry. Jellico was a booming mining community in the heart of the Cumberland Mountains in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although it had earlier commercial roots, it was not until the railroads were completed in Campbell County and the mines opened up that the town began to grow and was soon established as the hub city for the mining district in northern Campbell County, Tennessee, and southern Whitley County, Kentucky. It is as an industrial and commercial center for the surrounding mines that Jellico derives its significance. The historic district is comprised of commercial buildings constructed between 1890 and 1949, peak years of coal production in Campbell County. That Jellico was a significant commercial center is illustrated by the imposing rows of brick buildings on the two main thoroughfares that comprise the district.

History of Jellico

Jellico (pop. 2,347) is located in Campbell County, on the Kentucky border, approximately sixty-five miles north of Knoxville. The county was formed in 1806 and is named for Arthur Campbell, who as Commander of Ft. Henry in Virginia was active in separating North Carolina from its western lands, and participating in the formation of the State of Franklin. The earliest families to settle the area permanently were the Smiths and the Perkins, arriving around 1795. Josiah Smith emigrated from neighboring Whitley County, Kentucky, and established a farm and a small store in the vicinity of what would become Main Street in Jellico. In 1878 he established a post office in his store and named it "Smithburg." By 1883, there were several dwellings of both log and frame construction, a post office and a store. The combined influence of the railroads and the discovery of coal in Jellico Mountain brought profound changes to the community in the early 1880s.

Jellico was an incorporated town that while economically dependent on the mines, was not owned and operated by a single patriarchal company. A 1912 newspaper article reported that the town had been incorporated in order to sell whiskey.¹

¹Page, *Clearfork and More*, 31.

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Jellico Commercial Historic District
Campbell County, Tennessee

A tremendous explosion rocked downtown Jellico on September 21, 1906. The explosion damaged nearly all of the buildings along Main Street, and those closest to the blast were demolished. The explosion occurred in the rail yard and may have been caused when one rail car bumped another that was loaded with dynamite. The Mayor implemented a curfew and deputized members of the Knights of Pythias to help maintain order in the town. Damage was estimated at one million dollars, most of it to the properties belonging to the Southern and L&N railroads.

Industrial development of Jellico centered around the mines and was spurred by the completion of the Southern and L&N Railroads. Other industries also evolved as a direct result of rail access. Lands that were not mined for coal were harvested for timber. By 1924, other industries operating in Jellico included a creamery, the Jellico Lumber Company, and Campbell Knitting Mills. Coca-Cola opened a bottling plant in Jellico in 1914.

By 1885, camps were set up at the Kensee, Proctor, Wooldridge and Standard mines. These mines were first developed by owners out of Louisville, Kentucky. In 1898, most of the holdings, including 121 square miles in Whitley County and Campbell County were purchased by British interests.

The Jellico Commercial Historic District is comprised of the buildings on the south side of Fifth Street (South Main Street) and the east side of North Main Street. The oldest commercial structures in the town are on Kentucky Street, just across the state line, in Whitley County, Kentucky, and appear to date from circa 1890. The central business district of Jellico consists primarily of early twentieth century buildings. Because Jellico is relatively rural, the buildings reflect the architectural styles popular before the turn of the century.

Influence of the Railroads

The development the coal industry and the growth of the railroads in the post-Civil War south were mutually dependent on each other. It is difficult to determine which came first, the mines or the railroads. "The sudden national increase in the production of steel stimulated the exploitation of coal and iron deposits in the South in general and in Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau in particular. This, in turn, led to the growth of branch line or "feeder" railroads as these

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natural resources were . . . utilized."² Conversely, the introduction of railroads led to the successful exploitation of mineral and human resources in the Cumberland Plateau.³

In 1870, only one railroad line penetrated the region, running down the valleys of southwest Virginia and eastern Tennessee, from Norfolk to Knoxville. Phenomenal growth in the construction of railroads occurred in 1879 and again in 1885. More miles of track were laid in these two years than during any other period in American history.⁴ Most of the lines were feeder lines, and in the South, most of the feeder lines were constructed to facilitate the exploitation of coal and timber needed to fuel an emerging industrial economy.⁵ By 1900 four major railroads had extended branchlines into the area: Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O), Norfolk and Western (N&W), Louisville and Nashville (L&N), and the Southern. By 1930, very few mountain communities were without rail access.⁶

The L&N Railroad competed with the Southern Railroad to reach the Kentucky border at Smithburg. The Southern Railroad began surveying the area north of Knoxville in 1867 and completed a line as far as Caryville in Campbell County in 1871 (as the East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia Railroad). The L&N Railroad had progressed as far south as Livingston, Kentucky, by 1873. The Southern Railroad reached Smithburg in September 1882, but only as a terminus point, no trains could run the tracks. The L&N Railroad completed its line in April 1883 and ran the first train through the town. By June 1883, trains were running from Louisville, Kentucky, straight through to Knoxville, Tennessee. The name of the town was changed to Jellico on August 6, 1883.

Influence of the Coal Industry

Coal was discovered in the Cumberland Mountains before the outbreak of the Civil War, but was not actively exploited as a resource until after the war was over. Chattanooga and

*c16535D ²James Jones, *Railroad Development in Tennessee, 1865-1920*, THC Study Unit No. 5, 31 March 1987.

³James Jones, *The Development of Coal Mining on Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau, 1880-1930*, THC Study Unit No. 6, 30 October 1987, 9.

⁴Jones, *Railroad Development*, 7.

⁵Jones, *Railroad Development*, 8.

⁶Ronald Eller, *Miners, Millhands and Mountaineers*, (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1982) 65.

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Knoxville became centers for speculative activity in the surrounding mountains. In its processed form (coke), coal was a critical element in the manufacture of iron and steel. The coal-dependent iron industry spawned the evolution of great iron centers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the northern part of the coal fields, and Birmingham, Alabama, at the southern fringe.⁷ Smaller industrial and commercial hubs served the mining camps directly and included Middlesboro and Williamsburg, Kentucky, and LaFollette and Jellico, Tennessee. The coal fields in the Cumberland Mountains in Tennessee are divided into two major districts. The northern district includes Anderson, Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Roane, and Scott Counties.

Coal was first discovered in Campbell County in 1853 and for the next two years the county produced 160 tons annually. No record of production appears again until 1873 when 14,773 tons were produced.⁸

The Jellico Coal Company (later called the Wooldridge Jellico Coal Company) began actively developing a seam of coal in 1882 and shipped its first loads out in 1883. The Standard Company shipped its first coal out in January 1884. Wooldridge, Standard, Proctor, Kensee and East Tennessee were the largest mines in the Jellico area and were located on both sides of the state line. Once mining was established as the chief industry, Jellico became the leading jobbing center and distribution point for the mines.

125,000 tons of coal were produced out of Jellico in 1884. Production in the county increased steadily and in 1895, 340,395 tons were produced; by 1903 the county produced 710,564 tons and became the highest producer of coal in Tennessee by 1905. Production peaked in 1912 with 1,807,413 tons of coal produced, and over a million tons were produced every year thereafter except 1921, when major strikes occurred throughout the southern mines. Production in nearby Coal Creek (later called LaFollette) decreased after 1903, so it is safe to assume that thereafter much of Campbell County's coal was shipped out of Jellico.

⁷Eller, 53.

⁸James Hayden Siler, "History of the Jellico Area," in *Clearfork and More*, ed. Bonnie M. Page (Clinton, TN: *Clinton Courier-News*, 1986), 31.

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Coal was the primary source of energy for the United States until World War I, when oil and gas came into use. Sudden growth in mining between 1880 and 1930 throughout the Southeast was due to three major factors. First, southern coal was superior in quality to northern coal and cheaper to mine. Second, mine owners were able to hire more workers for less pay because southern miners were not unionized as were their northern counterparts. Third, only a small initial investment was needed to operate a southern mine; little machinery was required because the coal was relatively close to the surface. All that was required was the construction of homes and a store for the miners and a tipple structure to dump the coal into rail cars. Around the turn of the century, coal production in Appalachia tripled, partly due to the economic recovery sweeping the nation following the stock market Panic of 1893, and partly due to the increased need for coal in the war with Spain. Coal production boomed and by 1930, Appalachian coal accounted for almost 80 per cent of national production.⁹

Bituminous coal production peaked in 1923, with over 700,000 men working in 12,000 mines producing nearly a billion tons annually. Coal production slumped beginning in 1924 and was aggravated by the competition between unionized northern operators and nonunion, therefore cheaper, southern operators. The standard daily wage in union mines was \$7.50, whereas nonunion operators paid only \$5.00 per day to southern mine workers.¹⁰

Over six hundred company towns were constructed in the southern Appalachian mountains between 1900 and 1930; at the height of the boom, there were almost five hundred company towns but less than 100 independent incorporated towns.¹¹ The most important coal producing counties in Tennessee during this time were Campbell, Claiborne, Anderson, and Morgan Counties.¹²

The mining companies operating in and around Jellico in 1913 included Blue Gem Coal Company, Evans Coal Company, Falls Branch Coal Company (Wooldridge), Italian Blue Gem Coal Company (Newcomb), H. M. Jones Coal Company, Jellico Cannel Company (Newcomb), Proctor Coal Company, and Wooldridge-Jellico Coal Company. Other companies based in

c16535D ⁹Eller, 128.

¹⁰Eller, 156.

¹¹Eller, xx and 163.

¹²Eller, 153.

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Jellico and operating mines in Whitley County, Kentucky were Burk Hollow Coal Company, Cooke Jellico Coal Company, East Tennessee Coal Company, Main Jellico Mountain Coal Company, and Sunbeam Coal Company. A total of 422,114 tons of coal was produced by these companies in 1913.¹³

The buildings in the Jellico Commercial Historic District make up an excellent collection of early and mid-twentieth century commercial structures. Several retain their original iron fronts manufactured by the George Mesker Iron Works of Evansville, Indiana. The Jellico Historic District retains the feeling and association of a mid-twentieth century hub city. Its location on a railline provided the impetus for industrial and commercial development. The two rows of extant commercial buildings served businesses, industry, and workers during the boom years of the coal industry. Later, as the railroads became less important, the Dixie Highway (US 25W) became an important thoroughfare. This is seen in the location of an automobile dealership on a prominent corner at the edge of the district as well as evidence of early service stations. The nominated district is the best and most intact collection of buildings that represent the historic development of the community.

¹³"Production of Coal – 1913" originally published in the *Appalachian Trade Journal* (Knoxville, TN: 1914) in *Clearfork and More*, ed. Bonnie M. Page, 60.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Jellico Commercial Historic District follow the property lines or street edges of the commercial buildings shown (as the solid line) on the accompanying map. The district is located along North and South Main streets and North Commerce Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Jellico Commercial Historic District is comprised of the primary features of the downtown area. There are approximately six and one-half blocks included in the district. The boundaries reflect the historic commercial center of Jellico as it appeared during the period of significance. The district has remained intact with little intrusion or expansion since 1949.

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PROPERTY OWNERS

Building number, occupant's name (owner's name and address in parenthesis, if different), original street number if known in parenthesis before current street number.

# 1	Owner Postmaster US Postal Service 368 South Main Street Jellico, TN 37762		Ideal Flowers and Gifts 221 North Main Street Jellico, TN 37762
2	Interstate 2000 North Main Street (PO Box 150) Jellico, TN 37762	7	Associates in Eyecare 268 North Main Street Jellico, TN 37762 (Alvin Evans Rte. 1, Box 296 Jellico, TN 37762)
3	Union Bank 290 N. Main Street (PO Box 120) Jellico, TN 37762	7a	sign on building
4	Jellico Video 286 North Main Street (PO Box 206) Jellico, TN 37762	8	LaFollette Home Health Care 260 North Main Street Jellico, TN 37762
5	Carol & Frona Walker North Main Street (PO Box 85) Jellico, TN 37762	9	Ruby's Crafts/Ruby's Deli 256 North Main Street Jellico, TN 37762
6	Jan's Snip Shop (276) North Main Street Jellico, TN 37762 (Doris C. & Allen H. Douglas PO Box 252 Jellico, TN 37762)	10	Ruby's & Jim's Suds & Duds 202 (256) North Main Street Jellico, TN 37762
		11	Video Express 200 (212) North Main Street Jellico, TN 37762

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- | | | | |
|--------|--|-----|---|
| 12, 13 | Bill's Dollar Store #830
(113) 188 North Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Creekmore & Sons Supermarket Inc.
PO Box 237
Jellico, TN 37762) | 18 | Used Treasures
(111 Fifth Street)
South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Russell Edwards, etux & Merel
Sledge
75 Kennybug Road
Williamsburg, KY 40769) |
| 14 | Jellico Flowers/Jellico Hardware
(110-112) 116 North Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Ray Marsee
968 Hill Street
Jellico, TN 37762) | 19 | Jellico New & Used Furniture
144 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(William Leach
PO Box 873
Jellico, TN 37762) |
| 15 | Vacant
North Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Thomas & Deborah Barclay
106 Hicks Lane
Jellico, TN 37762) | 20 | Mary's Kitchen
South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Same as building 18) |
| 16 | Zeahini Heating & Cooling
Bill Jones Real Estate
116 North Main Street
(PO Box 673)
Jellico, TN 37762 | 21 | Dayspring Family Health Care
107 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(City of Jellico
PO Box 419
Jellico, TN 37762) |
| 17 | City of Jellico
North Main Street
(PO Box 419)
Jellico, TN 37762 | 21a | Wall - no owner recorded |

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- | | | | |
|----|--|-------|--|
| 22 | Bill's Barber Shop
113 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Bill & Thelma Neeley
675 Ivey Street
Jellico, TN 37762) | 26 | Mr. Joe Brown
189 South Main
Jellico Housing Authority
PO Box 240
Jellico, TN 37762
(Same as 27) |
| | City of Jellico
South Main Street
PO Box 419
Jellico, TN 37762 | 27 | Appalachia Health Services
Jellico Clinic
213 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762 |
| 23 | 145 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Georgia Cumberland Association of
the Seventh Day Adventist
PO Box 1200
Calhoun, GA 30701) | 28 | Jellico Drug Store
(Downery Drug Store, Inc.
203 South Main Street
Jellico, TN) |
| 24 | Hair Productions
(119) 167 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Gary & Renita Williams
731 Woolridge Lane
Jellico, TN 37762) | 29-30 | Jerry & Thelma Llewellyn
750 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762 |
| 25 | Mr. Steve Morgan, CPA
(121) 173 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Joe & Betty H. Brown
7730 Forsythe
Suite 300
Clayton, MO 63105) | 31 | Judy's Hair & Tanning Salon
243 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762 |
| | | 32 | Old Coca Cola Building
Sassy Scissors Salon & Tan
248 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Creekmore & Son IGA, Inc.
PO Box 237
Jellico, TN 37762) |

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33 Campbell County Clerk
315 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762
(Charles Artist
Newcomb, TN)

34 Unique Hair Design
284 South Main Street
Jellico, TN 37762

35 Jellico Motor Company
300 (375) South Main Street
(PO Box 740)
Jellico, TN 37762-0740

36 North Commerce Street
Old City Hall
City of Jellico
PO Box 419
Jellico, TN 37762-0419

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Jellico Commercial Historic District
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PHOTOGRAPHS

Name of Property: Jellico Commercial Historic District
Photographer: Kimberley Murphy
Date: October 1998
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243-0442

#	Description	View	Neg. #
1	US Post Office	E	A-10
2	200 Block North Main Street	S	A-11
3	200 Block North Main Street	S	A-13
4	200 Block North Main Street	NE	B-22
5	Rexall Central Drugs sign at 276 North Main Street	E	A-15
6	100-200 Blocks North Main Street	NNE	A-21
7	100 Block North Main Street	S	B-23
8	100 Block South Main Street, east section	W	B-16
9	100 Block South Main Street, middle section	W	B-13
10	100 Block South Main Street, west section	SW	A-20
11	200 Block South Main Street	E	B-8
12	Coca-Cola Bottling Works	SW	B-5
13	Coca-Cola Bottling Works	SE	B-4
14	Jellico Motor Company	SW	B-2
15	Old City Hall on North Commerce Street	NW	B-1