National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received MAR | 2 | 1984 date entered

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

Type all entries	s—complete applicable	sections	Tv.CI	•
1. Nam	ne			
historic Hawe	sville Historic Di	strict		
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation main	water, main Co	agos, and Clay	Sts.
street & number		continuation sheet	Ų	not for publication
city, town		vicinity of		
state	Kentucky co	de 021 county	Hancock	code
3. Clas	sification			·
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private _X_ both Public Acquisition NA_ in process NA_ being considered	Status	Present Use agricultureX commercial educational entertainmentX government industrial military	museum park X private residence X religious cientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty		34. Fr 1/3
	le - see continuat		1. 177	
street & number	TIE - SEE CONCINUAL	TOT SHEEL		
city, town		vicinity of	state	
	ation of Leg	al Description		
		cock County Administ		
	Main Street	COCK COUNTY Administ	racion buriaring	
	awesville			Kontucky
		in Existing S		Kentucky
				V
title Survey o	of Historic Sites i	n Kentucky has this pro		
date	1983		federal state	e _X_ county loca
depository for su	urvey records Kentuc	ky Heritage Council		
city, town Fi	rankfort		state	Kentucky

Condition Check one X excellent J good ruins X altered X altered M moved date moved M moved

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

7. Description

Located in the northwestern part of the state, Hancock County, Kentucky is a small region which is basically rural in nature. The Ohio River serves as Hancock's northern boarder, and other neighboring counties include; Daviess, Ohio, and Breckenridge. Only 187 square miles of territory are encompassed by the county boundaries, which makes Hancock one of the smallest counties in the state. Coinciding with these facts, Hancock's population has never been great and presently stands at 7,742.

Although at times, having the Ohio River as a neighbor has been difficult for the county, the rich alluvial soil she provided more than made up for the differences. Hancock's river plain contains some of the finest soil in Kentucky. This being the case, tobacco has always been one of the chief products exported by the county.

The other resource which put her on the map, was coal. Although Hancock is not presently one of the larger coal producing counties, during the 1800's the coal industry made her famous.

Physically and culturally, the county is divided in half. The flood plain area, produces the most agricultural products, contains the largest segment of the population, and historically was the first settled. During the county's coal mining era, 90 percent of the mining reserves were located near the flood plain.

The area up on the ridge, while not a wasteland, lacks the abundance of resources found in the plain area. It, therefore, is quite naturally note as heavily populated.

The county's two most important communities are both located on the Ohio. Hawesville, the county seat, is located across from Cannelton, Indiana, an area rich in history. Divided by Kentucky Highway 60, the town has a population of 1,000.

The second largest community, Lewisport, is west of Hawesville, and has a population of about 800.

Hawesville is a picturesque community, with the main section of town nestled against the hillside, overlooking the Ohio.

The historic part of town is at the foot of the hill, with the newer developments at the top of the ridge. The Hawesville Historic District is a tightly knit collection of 19th century commercial and residential buildings. The main artery of the district is Main Street, or Highway 60, with Main Cross Street of secondary importance. The district occupies four blocks of the historic town center, and contains 54 buildings. Twenty-one of those are commercial, and the remaining thirty-three are residential in nature. The buildings range in age from the mid-1870s through the early 20th century. There are two very large intrusions located within the boundaries. The recently constructed County Municiple building, occupies a prominent spot at the corner of Main and Main Cross Streets. However, it is a strictly modern structure, and does not try to compete with the surrounding historic buildings for importance. The other large intrusion is a 20th century Baptist Church at the corner of Main and Jefferson. Other small intrusions and a few empty lots are scattered throughout the district but they do not compromise the integrity of the historic area.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899X 1900–	J ,	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1860's - 1930's	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hawesville, Kentucky is a 19th century Ohio River community which has retained a significant amount of its historic architectural fabric. The Hawesville Historic District is a cohesive tightly knit group of historic buildings at the community's heart. These structures are representative of a most important period in the town's development; the middle and last half of the 19th century.

In 1829 Hancock County was organized from parts of three neighboring counties; Ohio, Breckenridge, and Daviess. Eighty-third in order of formation, the county was named for John Hancock, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Much of present-day Hancock was owned by Richard Hawes, a native of Virginia who came to Kentucky in 1810. During the '20s he purchased a good deal of Western Kentucky land, and proceeded to settle his family upon it.

In 1834, Mrs. Clara Hawes (the widow of Richard Hawes), was granted the first franchise to operate an Ohio River ferry in Hancock County. Although this was the first ferry in operation after the county was organized; it was not the first to operate in the area. In 1827, John and Len Dill owned an Ohio River ferry at the mouth of Anderson Creek, near present-day Lewisport. During that year, they charged a young Indiana man with infringement upon their ferry rights. The Indiana man, seventeen year old Abraham Lincoln, pled his case before Squire Samuel Pate in a log house on the Kentucky side of the river (see the Samuel Pate House National Register form). It has been surmised that through his connections with Judge Pate, Lincoln developed his first interest in law.

The community of Hawesville was laid out and surveyed by Richard Hawes during the 1820s. He donated the land for the site to the county at no charge, and offered a lot to anyone who would build a house in the community. As indicated by his accomplishments, Hawes was an energetic and generous man. He was extremely wealthy at the time of his death in 1829.

Hawesville was incorporated in 1836, and from the outset, grew rapidly. The fuel for this growth was coal. As early as 1817, coal was being mined in Hancock County, and by the 1830s it was a major industry.

Although the county contains large reserves of the bituminous coal which is prevalent in the Western Kentucky coal fields, Hancock also held large seams of cannel coal. Properly distilled, this type of coal yielded 130 gallons of crude oil per ton; and the eastern section of the county sat atop the famous Breckenridge cannel coal deposit.

official beautiful for the translation

¹The Pate house still stands in Hancock County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Acreage of nominated property 14 Quadrangle name Tell City, KY-IND. Quadran UTM References A 1 16 5 2 1 8 18 10 4 1 9 14 8 14 10 Zone Easting C 1 16 5 2 12 0 18 10 4 1 9 14 5 6 10 D 1 16 5 2 1 8 10 10 E	Northing
Quadrangle name Tell City, KY-IND. UTM References A 116 521880 4194840 B 1652222660 Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting C 116 522080 4194560 D 16 521800 E	
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting C 1 6 5 2 2 0 8 0 4 1 9 4 5 6 0 D 1 6 5 2 1 8 0 0 E	Northing
Verbal boundary description and justification See continuation sheet. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundarie	4 ₁ 1 ₉ 4 ₈ 0 ₀
Verbal boundary description and justification See continuation sheet. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundarie	
See continuation sheet. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundarie	
state code county	S
	code
state code county	cade
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Jayne C Henderson Preservation Specialist	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
organization Green River ADD date November 1	1003
street & number 3860 U.S. Highway 60 West telephone 502-9	920 - 4433
city or town Owensboro state KY	
12. State Historic Preservation Officer (Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:	
665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	
State Historic Preservation Officer signature	V . ∞) → E.J
title State Mistrie Presentin Illicia date	march 5, 1984
	A Part of The Control of the Total St.
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register:	The state of the s
	4/12/84
t hereby certify that this property is included in the National Registeria: 1997 in the Entered In the	4/12/84
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:	Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hancock County, Kentucky

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet Hawesville Histori	•	Page ₁
(Unless otherwise stated	l, all properties are in Hawesv	ille)
<u>Owner</u>	Property	Address
Immaculate Conception Church	Rectory	Main Street
Hancock County	Administration Building/	Administration Building
V	01d Courthouse	mamma and a darraring
Daniel Clay Quinn	Main Street	General Delivery
Horace Emmick Est	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
c/o Daniel Axton		
Jo Lee Aldridge	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
Ralph Bozarth	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
J.D. Dixon	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
James Grant	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
D.S. Simms	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
Frank Edwards	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
William H. Daviess	Main Cross Street	Rt. 2
William E. Snyder, Sr.	Main Cross Street	Brandenburg, KY.
Robert Snyder	Main Cross Street	General Delivery General Delivery
Ray Snyder	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
R.H. Banks - Nevoe Land Co.	Water Street	General Delivery
James Domerese	Water Street	General Delivery
Robert E. Davis	Water Street	General Delivery
R.I. Glover	Water Street	General Delivery
Robert Kirk Snyder	Water Street	General Delivery
Walter E. Brune	Water Street	General Delivery
Charles E. Heath	Water Street	General Delivery
Dorothy Nixon	Main Street	General Delivery
Joseph James	Main Street	General Delivery
Charles Kreisle	Main Street	General Delivery
William Greathouse	Main Street	General Delivery
John D. Puckett	Main Street	General Delivery
Frank Edwards	Main Street	General Delivery
Gordon Black	Main Street	General Delivery
Leroy Lamar	Main Street	General Delivery
Hawesville Baptist Church	Main Street	Main Street
Masonic 115 Fand A.M. Lodge	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
c/o Robert Ireland	Main Cross Street	P.O. Box 332
Harold Rogers	Main Cross Screet	Auburn, KY.
John R. Brown	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
Franklin Meserve	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
Charles M. King	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
Claude Davis	Main Cross Street	General Delivery
Hancock Bank and Trust	Main and Main Cross Sts.	Main Street
Alvin J. Kruse, Jr.	Main Street	Main Street
Clarion Publishing, Co.	Main Street	Main Street
Doris Bruner	Main Street	General Delivery
J. Randy Shultz	Main Street	General Delivery
Vada Brandle	Main Street	General Delivery

0wner

Delbert Boyd

James M. Hall

George Holland

Ivory Bruner

Nancy Hall

James Carrico

Mrs. Forest Williamson

Ora and Griffin Swinhart

Hancock County Senior

Citizens Center Richard Domerese

Donald Buchanan

Margaret Powers

Harold Blades

Maude White

Dennis Wrae

Jane Beatty

Elvin Myers

Donald Aull

Robert Huddy

Gibson Kesner

United Methodist Church

W.R. Wrae A.D. Boyd

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hancock County, Kentucky

Continuation sheet Hawesville Historic District Item number 2 and 4

Property

Main Street

Main Street Main Street

Main Street

Main Street

Main Street

Main Street

Main Street

Main Street

Main Street

Main Street

Main Street

For NPS use only received date entered

Page

Address Main Street General Delivery Rt. 1, Box 575 Umatilla, FL General Delivery General Delivery General Delivery Main Street Main Street Main Street General Delivery General Delivery 11775 Black Rd. Birch Run, Michigan General Delivery General Delivery General Delivery General Delivery

General Delivery

General Delivery

General Delivery
General Delivery

General Delivery

General Delivery

Main Street

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered

For NPS use only

Hancock County, Kentucky

Continuation sheet Hawesville Historic District Item number

Page

The most significant structure within the district, and one which serves as the focus for the area, is the old Hancock County Courthouse. It is a large Greek/Italianate style structure, constructed in 1867. Previously listed on the Register in 1975, the courthouse has been restored to its original integrity, and stands as evidence to the county's commitment to preservation (see photos 1-6).

The historic business area is centered on the area of Main Cross Street between Water and Main Street. Although no commercial buildings are located on Water Street, a few have been constructed on Main Street adjacent to the Main Cross intersection (see photos 8-38).

The commercial area was built up during the period between the 1860s and 1930s, with the 1880s and 90s seeing the biggest building boom. This area contains buildings of masonry construction; one to two stories in height. The fact that many of the structures have intact facades is a significant factor. Many of the buildings exhibit elaborately detailed cast-iron cornices and store fronts.

One of the most prominent, and architecturally significant commercial structures is the Rosenblatt building. Located at the intersection of Main and Main Cross, the building is totally intact, and has retained two wonderfully detailed unaltered castiron store fronts. The main store entrance faces Main, while a secondary facade faces Main Cross.

The Snead and Bibb foundry from Louisville is credited with the cast-iron detailing which is very elaborate. Slender columns with Corinthian capitals support the main store front cornice. An Indian motif is displayed throughout the design (see photos 11-19).

Another interesting feature displayed on Main Street commercial buildings is a round arched store front opening. Although the two buildings which exhibit this type of fenestration have cast-iron cornices, the main store front openings are supported by round arches with no cast-iron detailing (see photos 23 and 24 and 34-36).

No boundary exists between Hawesville's business district and her residential area. Most of the historic homes in Hawesville are located directly north and south of the commercial area.

The houses within the historic district are vernacular in form and style. No early 19th century houses and few mid-century ones are extant within the city's boundaries. The fabric of the residential area is composed of later buildings. The period between the fourth quarter of the 19th and the first quarter of the 20th is well represented in structural form.

Unlike the commercial buildings, most of Hawesville's houses are of frame construction material. The T-plan, and the center passage house are the two most prevalent forms. Few of the structures are elaborately detailed, but some feature sawn millwork.

One structure which deserves special mention is the Immaculate Conception Church Rectory. Situated directly south of the courthouse, the rectory is a brick side passage

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hancock County, Kentucky
Continuation sheet Hawesville Historic District Item number 7

For NPS use only received date entered

Page 3

plan house, constructed circa 1870. Although it is extremely simple in form and detail, the rectory is significant as the earliest residential structure intact on the original courthouse square.

Another set of structures of architectural importance; and ones which contain significance to the community include the Hawesville Methodist Episcopal Church, and the old Hawesville Presbyterian Church.

Now utilized as the Hancock County Senior Citizens Center, the Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1860. The building has a rectangular nave with a projecting entrance tower on the east end and one half of a cross axis form. The main facade is given emphasis by the use of tiered buttresses with stone caps at the corners; and string courses at windowsill and arch level. All openings within the main structure are round arched and defined by a double course of brick detailing. A 20th century addition abuts the southern facade of the main block.

The Methodist Episcopal Church is a gracefully detailed brick structure built circa the 1870s. The immense square entrance tower exhibits a variety of details including chamfered corners and recessed panels with corbel tables. This theme is continued along the secondary facades by pilasters which connect to form recessed panels in which the window openings sit. The main entrance is given emphasis by a round arched opening with stained glass. Local tradition states that the brick used in the construction of the church came from an early Hancock County Courthouse. Unfortunately, this lovely brick has been sand blasted.

Hawesville at the foot of the ridge has changed little since the 19th century. The newest commercial development, and residential subdivisions have opened up along the US 60 Bypass at the top of the hill.

Although it still lies within part of the Western Kentucky coal fields, Hancock County is no longer a large coal producer. Present-day Hancock County can lay claim to some of the largest and most prosperous industries in the state. These industries can command responsibility for most of the area's 20th century growth.

Much credit for the community's preservation attitude must go to the present county administration. Judge Jim Fallin has worked diligently to preserve the old county courthouse, and with the same strength to build the community's awareness of their cultural heritage.

The Historic District's eastern and southern boundary is the Water Street flood wall. Directly west of the district, behind the historic courthouse, are several intrusions, and a nondescript 19th century neighborhood. At the district's northern boundary, are two large intrusions and there the 19th century neighborhood is not so cohesive above that.

¹Please see the National Register form for the Immaculate Conception Church, listed in 1975.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Hancock County, Kentucky

Continuation sheetHawesville Historic District Item number 8

Page 2

The first half of the 19th century saw a great demand in Europe for the oil distilled from cannel coal. It was an uncommonly fine quality, and was widely used for fuel and light.

The demand became so great, that around 1837 the English government, working through a New York mining company, purchased mining rights in Hancock County. They established the Breckenridge Cannel Coal Company, which quickly became the largest operation in the area. A community named Victoria quickly sprang up near the mine.

A crude oil distillation plant was opened in Cloverport (in Breckenridge County) in 1840, to offer a convenient market for the locally mined coal. Many Englishmen came to work the mines, and their descendants still reside in Hancock County.

By 1840, Hawesville had a population of 840, quite a large number for a community incorporated only four years earlier.

During this period, other bituminous coal mines began operations in and around Hawesville. Some of the largest were the Revedy, Trabue, Cooper and Thompson mines.

Several developments which occurred in the following decades served to increase the demand for bituminous coal; and the dramatic growth of the industry in Hancock County.

At their inception, both the steamboating and railroad industry relied on wood as the main source of fuel. It was later discovered that the bituminous type coal could be fired to a higher temperature, and would burn longer. Both industries turned to coal almost exclusively, which served to increase the development of Western Kentucky coal.

At the beginning of the Civil War, Hawesville's population peaked at 1,120. Although some mines closed during the war, including the Breckenridge, more opened to supply the increased demand brought on by the war. Hawesville soon became a major fueling station on the Ohio, as well as a shipping point for the county.

Hawesville's ties to the Ohio River have always been strong; but this interdependence has never been as tenuous as during the latter part of the 19th century. When steamboating was at its height, during the 1860s and '70s, a fair share of Hancock County's native sons were riverboat captains.

Probably one of the best known river pilots in the United States was John W. Cannon. He was born near Hawesville in 1820, and his fascination with boats brought him to New Orleans at the age of eighteen. There he secured a position as a cub pilot, and his career began. By 1860, Cannon had qualified for his pilot's papers, and was soon known as the owner of some of the swiftest boats on western waters.

Perhaps Captain Cannon is best known for his boat, the Robert E. Lee. Captain Cannon and the "Lee" engaged the "Natchez", another swift vessel in a race that was to become well known in history. The Robert E. Lee won that race in 1870, by more than six hours.

Captain Cannon died in 1882, at the age of 62, at his home in Frankfort. He is

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Hancock County, Kentucky
Continuation sheet Hawesville Historic District Item number 8

Page 3

buried alongside the Kentucky River.

J.W. Cannon was not the only native Hancock Countian to become a well known river captain. Others such as John and W.D. Crammond, and J.D. Carlton built and piloted many fine steamboats. So many of these superior vessels were constructed at Hawesville, that her boat yards became quite well known.

Around 1889, another event took place which would serve to strengthen the community's economy. The Louisville, Henderson and St. Louis, a subsidiary of the L&N, opened a line through Hancock County. The railroad supplemented Hawesville's transportation and trade routes, but it never replaced the river.

During the last quarter of the 19th century, Hawesville was a bustling community, and by all rights, a prosperous one. During this period of time, the Hawesville Deposit Bank was chartered (1887) (later the Hancock Deposit Bank); the city waterworks (1896), and the electric light plant (1898) opened, and the Cumberland Telephone Company was established (1899). The Breckenridge mine, which had closed during the war, reopened in 1890. One of the community's oldest businesses opened in 1900. Sam Rosenblatt established a department store at the corner of Main and Main Cross Streets. The business operated until 1978. Around 1900 the census showed a population of 9,200 for Hancock County, which was a peak for the county.

After the turn of the century though, the county's population began to drop off. One factor which may have partially caused the decline was the lack of knowledge concerning erosion. Most of Hancock County's virgin land, what small percentage there was, had been used to exhaustion.

There were also other changes taking place, which would serve to continue the decline. The Breckenridge Cannel Coal Mine closed, again. The seam had been totally mined out, and the European demand no longer existed. The overall production of coal in the county began diminishing around 1900, and Hawesville lost its prominence as a mining center.

The Great Depression closed many of the remaining bituminous mines, and in 1936 the first strip mining was done in the area. However, strip mining would never reach the heights the other industries had 100 years earlier.

Hawesville continued to hold on to her river connections and during the showboating era, 1905-1920, and the town was still a popular stop.

During the 1920's oil was discovered in the southern part of the county, but not enough for much industrial development.

The county's population continued to decline, and after the 1920's Hawesville lost her former affluence. The community's population stabilized at around 1,000 which is the present count.

²The line was originally proposed as the Louisville, St. Louis and Texas, but Texas was never reached.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hancock County, Kentucky
Continuation sheet Hawesville Historic District Item number 8

For NPS use only received date entered

Page 4

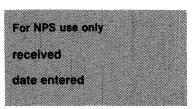
During the last twenty years, Hancock County has regained some of its industrial prominence. Several large industries have located in the county including, American Olean Tile, Martin-Marietta, and American Southwire.

The Hawesville Historic District is representative of that period in the community's history which produced the most important growth and development. The majority of the buildings within the district, were constructed between 1860 and 1900, a time when Hawesville was well known as a mining center and steamboat port.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hancock County, Kentucky

Continuation sheet Hawesville Historic District Item number 9



Page

Books

Hartford, Ellis Ford, and James Fuqua Hartford. <u>Green River Gravel</u>. McDowell Publications, 1983.

Newspapers

Hancock Clarion, Sesquicentennial Edition, September 6, 1979.

Hancock Clarion, Sesquicentennial Edition, December 27, 1979

Hancock Clarion, Sesquicentennial Edition, October 25, 1979

National Register Forms

Hancock County Courthouse - National Register Form - 1975

Samuel Pate House National Register Form - 1977

Unpublished Manuscripts

Clinton, Charles A. "History of Hancock County," unpublished masters thesis.

Wilhoyte, Susan. "A History of Hawesville," unpublished manuscript.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Hancock County, Kentucky

Continuation sheet Hawesville Historic District Item number 10

For NPS use only received date entered

Page 1

Beginning at a point on the northeast corner of the Methodist Episcopal Church lot, on the westside of the alley between Main and Main Cross Streets; 100 feet south of Washington Street. The boundary travels south 180 feet, along the rear property lines of the buildings on the east side of main street; the boundary then turns east 225 feet, along the rear property lines of the buildings on the north side of Main Cross Street, to a point on the eastside of Water Street; the boundary turns south 350 feet, along the front property lines, of the buildings on the westside of Water Street; the line turns east 150 feet; then south 270 feet, then west 150 feet, to encompass the railroad depot on the eastside of Water Street; the boundary turns northwest 465 feet along the north side of Clay Street, to a point on the northeast corner of Clay and Main; the line then turns north 120 feet, along the eastside of Main Street; it then turns west 250 feet along the south property line of the Immaculate Conception Rectory; it then turns north 85 feet; then east 25 feet; then north 25 feet to a point on the southwest corner of the Old Hancock County Courthouse property; the line then continues north along the west property line 225 feet; then east 50 feet; the boundary turns north 190 feet along the rear property line of the Hancock County Municiple Building; the line turns east 60 feet; then north again 275 along the west property lines of the buildings on the westside of Main Street; it turns west 80 feet;

then north again to continue along the rear property lines of the buildings on the westside of Main Street for 500 feet; the boundary turns east along the north property line of the property directly south of the Hawesville City Building 200 feet, to a point on the westside of Main Street; the boundary then turns south along the west side of Main, 100 feet; it then turns east along the north property line of the Methodist Episcopal Church property 270 feet, back to the point of beginning.

